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FBIS-NES-89-099 CONTENTS 24 May 1989

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Al-Qadhdhafi Arrives in Casablanca for Summit *[JANA]* 1
'Abd al-Majid at Foreign Minister Meeting *[MENA]* 1
Arab Foreign Ministers Submit Draft Resolutions *[Rabat Radio]* 2
Mubarak Meets Syrian, Libyan Leaders *[MENA]* 2
'Reconciliation' Noted *[Rabat Radio]* 3
'Understanding' at Meeting *[MENA]* 3
Syria To Restablish Ties *[MENA]* 3
Mubarak on Meetings, Syria *[MENA]* 3
Al-Asad Meets With Benjedid, Al-Qadhdhafi *[SANA]* 4
Al-Sharif on Mubarak Meeting With King Fahd *[MENA]* 4
Efforts To Reconcile Syria, Iraq Noted *[MENA]* 4
King Hassan Meets Al-Asad, Al-Qadhdhafi *[MENA]* 4
King Husayn Meets Arab Leaders in Casablanca *[Amman TV]* 4
Iraqi President Meets Leaders in Casablanca 5
Meets YAR President *[Baghdad Radio]* 5
Meets King Fahd *[INA]* 5
Receives PLO's 'Arafat *[INA]* 5
Receives Amir of Bahrain *[INA]* 5
Receives UAE President *[INA]* 5
YAR's Salih Meets Djibouti, Sudan Leaders *[Sanaa Radio]* 6
Qabus Meets Leaders at Casablanca Meetings *[Muscat Radio]* 6
Egypt Reconciles Palestinian-Syrian Views *[MENA]* 6
PLO Spokesman on Arab Paper, Shamir Plan, Summit *[WAKH]* 7
'Text' of Palestinian Paper *[AL-FAJR 23 May]* 7
Palestinian Group Appeals to Arab Summit *[SPA]* 8
PNSF Sends Memorandum to Arab Summit *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 8
Arab Summit Opening Session Delayed 'Few Hours' *[WAKH]* 10
Summit Meetings Begin *[INA]* 10
King Hassan Speaks *[Rabat TV]* 10
Mubarak Addresses Meeting *[Rabat TV]* 11
Summit To Be Extended *[MENA]* 14
Closed Session on Lebanon *[MENA]* 14
Lebanon Presence Unresolved *[MENA]* 14
Session Opens, Postponed *[Rabat TV]* 14

Palestian Affairs

'Text' of 'Intifadah' Leadership Call No 40 *[Sanaa VOP]* 15
PLO Officials Comment on Baker's Statements *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 17
Habash Faults Egypt's Return to Arab League *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 18
Saudi Arabia Pays $12 Million for 'Uprising' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 18

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Quadripartite Summit Held in Oran 23 May *[Damascus Radio]* 19

Egypt

People's Assembly Seats Allocated to Opposition *[Beirut Voice of Lebanon]* 19
AL-AHRAM on 'Moral Threats' of Shamir Plan *[22 May]* 19
Commentary Calls Summit New Starting Point *[Cairo Radio]* 19
Chief Editor Views Egypt's Arab Role *[AL-MUSAWWAR 19 May]* 20
Draft Law To Execute Drug Dealers Agreed On *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 22 May]* 23

Mauritania

Ethnic Clashes Reportedly Leave 10 Dead *[AFP]* 24
'Hizballah' Threatens French *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 24
Nouakchott Notes Recall of Ambassador to Senegal 24
Malian Official Delivers Traore Message *[Gabon Libreville Africa No 1]* 24
New PRC Envoy Presents Credentials *[AFP]* 24

Sudan

453 Said Killed in Darfur; Chad Blamed *[SUNA]* 24
Clashes Said 'Contained' *[SUNA]* 25
Armed Group Intercepts Relief Train *[SUNA]* 25
Rebels To Decide on Resuming Hostilities *[MENA]* 26
Commentary Says Al-Mahdi Refuses Talks *[Radio SPLA]* 26

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

U.S. Senator Meets With Deputy Amir 23 May *[WAKH]* 27
Received by Prime Minister *[WAKH]* 27

PDRY

Planning Cooperation Protocol Signed With USSR *[Aden Radio]* 27

Saudi Arabia

Jeddah Daily Comments on Iranian Power Struggle *['UKAZ 18 May]* 27

ISRAEL

Further Reaction to Baker Remarks on Territories 29
Shamir: Sections 'Useless' *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 29
Further on Shamir Remarks *[THE JERUSALEM POST 24 May]* 29
Arens: Statement 'Not Helpful' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Further on Arens' Comments *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
Peres on Baker Remarks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 31
Knesset Reacts to Statement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Territory Residents 'May Pressure' PLO *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Cease-Fire Agreement With PLO Suggested *[HA'ARETZ 22 May]* 32
Peres' Flaws as Finance Minister Examined *[HA'ARETZ 21 May]* 33
Settlement in Territories Said Growing *[HA'ARETZ 19 May]* 34
Mitzna' on Operation Against West Bank Hamas *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories 35
11 Hurt in Gaza, West Bank *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Settlers Protest at Village *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Most Gaza Curfews Lifted *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Shots Fired at IDF Outpost *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
'Activists' Arrested in Raids *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Commentary Anticipates 'Hot, Bloody Summer' *[HA'ARETZ 23 May]* 36
Firearms Use in Uprising 'No Surprise' *[MA'ARIV 22 May]* 37

JORDAN

Paper Calls For 'Solutions' From Arab Summit *[JORDAN TIMES 24 May]* 39
Columnist on Baker's Statements, U.S. Policy *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 24 May]* 39
Soviet Friendship Delegation Arrives 23 May *[PETRA-JNA]* 40
Details of Donations to 'Uprising' Revealed *[JORDAN TIMES 24 May]* 40
New Power Station To Be Inaugurated 25 May *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 24 May]* 41
Columnist Calls For Press 'Immunities' *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 23 May]* 41

LEBANON

Fadlallah Cited on Summit, Vatican Letter *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 42
'Awn May 'Fight' if Summit Fails *[VOL]* 42
Seeks UN-Arab Deployment *[VOL]* 42
Soviet Envoy Cited on Summit, Lebanese Situation *[RFL]* 42
Syrians Arrest Over 50 Youths in West Beirut *[RFL]* 42
Shaykh Khalid Forces Claim Anti-Syrian Attacks *[RFL]* 43
Israeli, Militia Activities in South Detailed *[VOP]* 43
Israel Extends Telephone Cable to Security Strip *[VOL]* 43
Jubayl, Army Mountain Positions Shelled 24 May *[VOL]* 43
Syrian Planes Overfly Mountain, Al-Biqa' *[VOL]* 43

SYRIA

Khaddam Discusses PLO, Egypt, Arab Summit *[Rome LA REPUBBLICA 20 May]* 44
Station Views Israeli 'Terrorism,' Shamir Plan *[Damascus Radio]* 44

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Grand Assembly Elections Held 17 May *[BAKHTAR]* 46
Najibullah's Decree on Members *[Kabul Radio]* 46
Grand Assembly Session Opens *[BAKHTAR]* 46
Senate Speaker Cited on Work *[BAKHTAR]* 47
Hatif Chairs Assembly *[BAKHTAR]* 48
Najibullah's Concluding Speech *[Kabul Radio]* 48
Mujahidin Attack Post Near Kabul, Airport *[AFP]* 49
20 May Military Situation Reported *[BAKHTAR]* 50
Mujahidin Commanders Meet in Peshawar 21 May *[Tehran T.]* 50

Bangladesh

Shanti Bahini Insurgents Kill 10 Hostages *[AFP]* 50
General Amnesty Extended *[Dhaka International]* 51
Spokesman Refutes Report on Chakma Leader's Arrest *[Dhaka Radio]* 51
Tribal Protest Demonstration in Dhaka Reported *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Chinese Students Demonstrate in Dhaka *[AFP]* 51

India

Media Hail Missile Launch, Criticize U.S. *[AFP]* 51
Public Hails Launch *[Delhi Radio]* 52
Commentary on Agni Launch *[Delhi International]* 53
Official on Pakistan Minister's Kashmir Statement *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Repatriation of Nationals From Singapore Ended *[Delhi Radio]* 53
6 'Hardcore Terrorists' Killed in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 54

Iran

Further on Khomeyni's Surgery, Recovery 54

Ahmad Khomeyni Interviewed *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Khomeyni's Surgeon's Interviewed *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Khamene'i Issues Statement *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Foundations Offer Prayers *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Prayers Slated for Qom Mosque *[Tehran Radio]* 56
IRGC To Offer Prayers *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interviewed *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Khamene'i Comments on Khomeyni *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Ayatollah Golpayegani's Message *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Shi'ite Official: Khomeyni Condition 'Precarious' *[Paris Radio]* 57
Khamene'i Addresses Cabinet on Foreign Visits *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Joint Executive, Judicial Session Held *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Reappraisal Council Deliberations Noted 58
Constitution Reappraisal Council Meets 23 May *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Daily Cited on Economic, Political Decisions *[IRNA]* 60
Iraqi Kurds Attack Battalion Base in Sulaymaniyah *[Tehran International]* 61
Charge Says Kuwaiti Gunboat Affair 'Settled' *[Kuwait ARAB TIMES 22 May]* 61
Court Hearing on Airbus Downing Discussed *[Tehran Radio]* 61
National Airline To Increase Gulf Flights *[IRNA]* 62
Majlis Supports Guards, Defense Ministries Merger *[IRNA]* 62

Pakistan

Bhutto Departs for 4-Day Visit to Turkey 24 May *[Islamabad International]* 62
Bhutto Interviewed on National Issues *[THE MUSLIM 5 May]* 62
Yaqub Khan Replies to Foreign Policy Criticism *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
Indian Home Secretary Meets Bhutto 21 May *[Delhi TV]* 68
Meets Ishaq Khan 22 May *[Islamabad Radio]* 69

Sri Lanka

Tamil Rebels Ambush Army Patrol, Kill 4 Indians *[AFP]* 69
Delhi Confirms LTTE Ambush 70
Militants Accuse Colombo of Rearming Rival Rebels *[AFP]* 70

Inter-Arab Affairs

Al-Qadhdhafi Arrives in Casablanca for Summit

LD2305201489 Tripoli JANA in English 1824 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, Al-Ma' [May] 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution arrived this evening in Casablanca in sisterly Morocco.

An official welcome ceremony was held for the leader with King Hassan II heading the reception at Mohamed V airport.

Taking part in the reception were the two sons of King Hassan II Azzedine Laraki the prime minister of sisterly Morocco, Ahmad Osman the speaker of the parliament, advisors to King Hassan II, members of the government, Chedli Klibi the secretary-general of the League of Arab countries, the secretary of the Arab Maghreb Union, senior officers of the Supreme Command of the Moroccan Armed Forces, Casablanca's Wali, a number of senior figures and official in sisterly Morocco and members of the diplomatic core accredited to sisterly Morocco.

The leader of the revolution had previously left Oran in sisterly Algeria where President Chadli Bendjedid was heading the farewell ceremony for the leader.

Taking part were, Al-Arabi Balkhair the director of the presidential office, Maloud Hamroush the secretary-general of the presidency and a number of officials of Oran state in sisterly Algeria.

Following the playing of both Allah-u-Akbar and the Algerian national anthems the leader of the revolution accompanied by President Chadli Bendjedid, reviewed the guard of honour which took in salute for them.

President Chadli Bendjedid bid the leader a warm and fraternal goodbye at the step of his aeroplane.

'Abd al-Majid at Foreign Minister Meeting

NC2205064089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 21 May 89

[Excerpts] Casablanca, 21 May (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egypt's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, delivered a speech tonight at the opening session of the Arab foreign ministers conference in Casablanca. [passage omitted]

Here is the text of 'Abd al-Majid's speech:

Mr Chairman, Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies, Mr General Secretary of the Arab League, Gentlemen:

I listened with appreciation to the speech delivered by my brother, His Excellency Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, in which he welcomed the participation of Egypt in this respected conference—which is preparatory to the convocation of the extraordinary Arab summit meeting—and its resumption of full responsibilities in the Arab League and all the agencies, organizations, and institutions affiliated with that body.

Egypt is delighted to resume its membership and to assume the important, historic responsibilities which this membership entails. Egypt is committed to undertake these responsibilities in accordance with the terms of the Arab League's Charter.

I would like to express appreciation to His Excellency Secretary General Chedli Klibi for his speech in which he welcomed the return of Egypt to its seat in the Arab League.

My Brothers and Colleagues, Arab Foreign Ministers; Secretary General of the Arab League; Gentlemen: It gives me pleasure to take part along with you in this historic gathering of Arab foreign ministers on the soil of the sisterly Kingdom of Morocco, a gathering which marks the beginning of a new phase characterized by a remarkable degree of Arab cooperation and coordination.

I am confident that my feelings are totally shared by my colleagues, the Arab foreign ministers, taking part in this respected meeting. This meeting is significant because it is the first time in years that Egypt sits at an Arab gathering on this level, to help prepare for the summit of Arab kings, presidents, and amirs. This meeting is also significant because it takes place at a time when a high level of Arab solidarity is much needed.

Credit for the realization of this meeting goes to King Hassan II of the sisterly Kingdom of Morocco, for he has called for holding an emergency Arab summit meeting in Casablanca and offered to host such a meeting. Credit is also due to the genuine feeling among Arab leaders that a new phase should begin, a phase which overcomes the negative aspects of the past and reflects the reality of ties and relations with Egypt and the role of that country in the service of the Arab people.

Brother Arab Foreign Ministers, a new leaf has been turned, which we hope will be brighter and full of cooperation. The Arab Republic of Egypt does not regard this meeting and the subsequent meetings on the summit level as a return to joint Arab work. Cairo has never changed its place. It has never been distant from the hearts of the Arabs, and it has never shirked its Arab principles or commitments. Egypt has been faithful to its pledges and loyal to its Arab people, painstakingly working for the good of the Arab nation, promoting their hopes, and defending their rights. Egypt has never spared any effort and will never falter in its work for stronger and deeper Arab solidarity.

I dare say that our presence here evokes varied feelings in one's soul as one looks back to events which we all lived through. At the same time, we all share this

moment of welcome, the current optimism, and the hope for a future in which our Arab nation will be able to cope with the urgent challenges and issues at this critical stage in our history.

Brother Arab Foreign Ministers, while meeting today, we all look to our common goals, which are in fact very clear to us. We also know that the only way to achieve them is through real Arab solidarity.

The Arab Republic of Egypt has shouldered its responsibility toward pivotal Arab issues. It has chosen peace as a strategic line. The peace we mean is the real and honorable peace that restores to the Arabs their rights and preserves their land. The fraternal Arab states have recently joined us in our celebrations on the occasion of the liberation of the last inch of Egyptian territory following the restoration of Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah. Everybody considered this event a culmination of the wise policy pursued by Egypt under the leadership of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The restoration of our land was a real national epic in which we were supported by the Arab nation, which shared with us the periods of concern and struggle to confirm Egyptian rights and uphold the principles of freedom and dignity.

The Arab support was a symbol of the success of the Egyptian policy. It expressed the continuity of Egyptian-Arab relations, which I can say have now reached a stage of strength, confidence, realism, and mutual respect.

A careful glance at our present reality clearly reveals that there is no alternative to joint Arab action and to developing it according to the circumstances and requirements of our present world, which is experiencing a fundamental period of change. We must work to achieve our objectives and hopes on the various political, economic, and social levels, benefiting from the new changes which have occurred recently, including the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council, the Arab Maghreb Union, and the Gulf Cooperation Council. We view all these organizations as tributaries that support joint Arab action in the face of regional and international groupings.

Your Excellencies, as part of our joint efforts to support Arab solidarity, we agree that in this delicate phase in the life of our Arab nation the agenda of the extraordinary Arab summit contains the following topics:

1. The Palestinian issue and supporting the intifadah [uprising] of the Palestinian people against Israel's illegal and inhuman practices in the light of the new developments that this issue has witnessed since the meeting of the Palestine National Council in Algiers in November and the important resolutions issued by that meeting, including the proclamation of the Palestinian State and the decision to work to achieve a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

2. Settling the Lebanese crisis, putting an end to the deterioration of the situation in fraternal Lebanon, and making efforts and adopting measures enabling this fraternal country to regain its sovereignty, independence, and territorial unity and integrity.

3. Supporting Iraq's stand in the peace talks and urging Iran to be flexible in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 so that the region may enjoy peace and stability and devote its efforts to development and reconstruction.

Brother colleagues, our meeting today and the brotherly Arab states' sincere welcome of the participation of the Arab Republic of Egypt represented by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in the Arab summit constitute a real starting point toward a new, objective, and serious stage of a strengthened Arab solidarity.

The Arab Republic of Egypt will continue to shoulder its Arab responsibility and will spare no effort to achieve the objectives, hopes, and aspirations of our immortal Arab nation. May God help all of us achieve the welfare and good of this nation and may God's peace and mercy be with you.

Arab Foreign Ministers Submit Draft Resolutions

LD2205223989 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers have submitted to the attention of the summit the draft resolutions they prepared concerning the Palestinian question, the Lebanese problem, and the situation between Iraq and Iran.

We recall that the six-man committee in charge of settling the Lebanese crisis ended preparation of its final report to be submitted to the Arab leaders this afternoon. Also, the committee has concluded a unified draft resolution concerning the Palestinian issue, proceeding from the Syrian and Palestinian working papers.

Mubarak Meets Syrian, Libyan Leaders

NC2305220789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 23 May (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that immediately after President Husni Mubarak arrived at the main hall of the royal palace in Casablanca, he shook hands with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

When President [title as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived, he and President Mubarak embraced each other.

Safwat al-Sharif said that the first session of the summit was then held in order to approve the agenda. He added that the kings and presidents approved the agenda proposed by Morocco's King Hassan II—which included the

opening speech by his majesty, followed by President Husni Mubarak's speech on the occasion of Egypt's return to the Arab League—without any change or discussion.

Al-Sharif added that the closed session was then adjourned so that the media could enter. Afterwards King Hassan II escorted President Mubarak to his office next to the conference hall. The Moroccan king later escorted Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to the office where Al-Asad met with President Mubarak. They were then joined by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The four leaders held a meeting which lasted for 40 minutes.

The Moroccan king played a major role in holding this quadripartite meeting which was held before the summit's open session. His Majesty attended part of the meeting.

'Reconciliation' Noted

LD2405083889 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Before the opening session of the emergency Arab summit conference, a 40-minute meeting took place between His Majesty King Hassan II; President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria; Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution; Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad; and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

At the end of this meeting, President Mubarak, President al-Asad, and Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi embraced each other. This embrace crowned the reconciliation between President Mubarak, President al-Asad, and Al-Qadhdhafi.

'Understanding' at Meeting

NC2405065189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 24 May (MENA)—MENA has learned that during the quadripartite summit between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Libyan President [title as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid yesterday, President Mubarak discussed all points of disagreement with complete frankness. A responsible source told a MENA correspondent that President Mubarak's review was extremely clear and candid, and that a spirit of understanding prevailed at this meeting, which lasted approximately 50 minutes. The source added that the meeting provided an opportunity for a new climate and for a good spirit to prevail with regard to collective Arab action to serve the Arab nation's causes. He noted that all Arab leaders concurred that this summit is the meeting of Egypt's return.

Arab kings and presidents described President Mubarak's speech yesterday as civilized and practical and as one that dealt with the essence of all issues. The Arab kings and presidents congratulated President Mubarak on his practical and frank speech and stated that it defined the features of future Arab action.

Syria To Restablish Ties

NC2405093189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, 24 May (MENA)—The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH has reported that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has told Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that Damascus will reestablish diplomatic ties with Egypt right after the Arab summit. The paper states that President al-Asad said that his country will restore ties with Egypt out of its conviction that Egypt's policy in the pan-Arab arena has changed since President Husni Mubarak assumed power in 1981.

Mubarak on Meetings, Syria

NC2305182989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 23 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak said today that he has met with a large number of Arab leaders since he arrived in Casablanca. He affirmed that bilateral consultations and meetings are very important at conferences. He noted that they are occasions to exchange views and that what takes place during these meetings is a preparation for the big conferences.

President Mubarak explained that groupings of countries are basically economic and that the groupings that we see in the Arab world are being established under the Arab League umbrella.

Asked about the possibility of his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, President Husni Mubarak said: I have said more than once that President Hafiz al-Asad was a colleague of mine and I, as a brother and colleague, used to intercede between him and President Anwar al-Sadat whenever there were differences between them. I used to speak in a brotherly fashion with him. Nowadays we still speak well of each other.

President Mubarak added that this is the natural situation. He noted that it is also natural for the Syrian and Egyptian people to meet because both sides have much appreciation for each other. He noted that if circumstances allow a meeting, there will be no problem.

Regarding his meetings with the leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] states, President Mubarak said: We met yesterday to discuss the date of the next ACC summit. It is going to be held in Cairo on 12 or 14 June.

On his views regarding the resolution of the Lebanese crisis, His Excellency the president said that if Lebanese representatives attend the summit—a subject which is currently under discussion—this will clarify things so

that there will be a full picture of the various views. He noted that views on the issues will be proposed and discussed by the Arab leaders in order to solve the Lebanese crisis.

President Mubarak added that the Arab summit must find a solution to the Lebanese crisis and define a course and a path for Lebanon. He said that it is not reasonable for the United States to talk about a solution to the Lebanese crisis and that meetings about the crisis should be held in Europe or Europeans should discuss the issue and act energetically to resolve this problem while Lebanon is an Arab country and a founding member of the Arab League. President Mubarak stressed that the Arab summit must discuss the Lebanese issue.

President Mubarak said that in his speech at the extraordinary Arab summit conference he will deal with the Arab economic groupings because the entire world, especially the European groupings are planning to unite in the EC in 1992. He wondered: How will we deal with these groupings as individuals? He noted that the idea of establishing an Arab market began before the establishment of the EC, adding: however, they progressed and we retreated. The president asserted: We must find a way to promote the establishment of an Arab market as this market is import, especially with the establishment of the EC and the American-Canadian agreement. He remarked: If an Arab market is not founded, we will find ourselves an odd Arab group, although we possess a great potential that would help set up this market.

Al-Asad Meets With Benjedid, Al-Qadhdhafi

JN2405153689 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 24 May (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad at 0100 today held a meeting with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution.

His Excellency the president at 0300 this morning Damascus time received Tunisian President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali.

The two meetings were attended by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Talks during the two meetings centered on the general Arab situation and the procedures in the extraordinary summit and the topics proposed before it.

Al-Sharif on Mubarak Meeting With King Fahd

NC2305163189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 23 May (MENA)—This afternoon, President Mubarak visited His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, at his place of residence in Casablanca. President Mubarak's talks with King Fahd lasted 45 minutes.

Commenting on the meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the custodian of the two holy mosques expressed his overflowing happiness and that of the Saudi people over Egypt's return to the Arab League. He lauded the fraternal relations binding the Egyptian and Saudi people. The information minister added that both leaders discussed what is needed for their coordination during the summit conference.

Answering a question about the positions of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Oman on the Palestinian issue and the papers being presented to the summit on this issue, the information minister said that Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Oman support the Palestinian issue and the PLO decisions. These decisions have also been supported by the majority of Arab countries.

On the talks held between President Mubarak and Sultan Qabus, Safwat al-Sharif said that both leaders discussed the various issues presented at the Arab summit.

Efforts To Reconcile Syria, Iraq Noted

NC2405070689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 24 May (MENA)—MENA has learned that King Hassan II is currently exerting intensive efforts to achieve a reconciliation between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. A responsible Arab source has stated that King Hassan II held talks with the Iraqi and Syrian leaders yesterday on the sidelines of the emergency Arab summit in an attempt to reconcile the two leaders. He noted, however, that certain points of disagreement remain. The source noted that all Arab leaders, along with King Hassan II, are seeking to achieve this reconciliation so that it will prevail among all Arab countries.

King Hassan Meets Al-Asad, Al-Qadhdhafi

NC2305204689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 23 May (MENA)—This evening, King Hassan II of Morocco held consultations with Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The consultations centered on the issues of the Arab emergency summit to create some kind of reconciliation before the start of the summit's meetings.

Meanwhile, President Husni Mubarak held consultations on this with a number of Arab leaders upon his arrival here yesterday.

King Husayn Meets Arab Leaders in Casablanca

JN2305203989 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Today afternoon, His Majesty the king received the president of the United Arab Emirates, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. His Majesty also received the ruler of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

This evening his majesty visited Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz. His majesty made a visit to the Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd-al-'Abdallah al-Sabah. His Majesty also met with the head of the State of Palestine, Mr 'Arafat, who had lunch with His Majesty the king.

The meetings were attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, and the deputy premier and foreign minister.

Iraqi President Meets Leaders in Casablanca

Meets YAR President

JN2305190389 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn received at his place of residence in Casablanca this evening his brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic. They reviewed topics on the agenda of the extraordinary Arab summit and discussed coordination of positions in the summit. Viewpoints were completely identical.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information. On the Yemeni side, the meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; and Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs.

Meets King Fahd

JN2305150889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 23 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn this afternoon visited his brother Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and king of Saudi Arabia, at his place of residence.

They reviewed topics on the agenda of the extraordinary Arab summit.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

The meeting was also attended by the delegation accompanying King Fahd, which comprises His Highness Salman Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, prince of Riyadh region; His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs; His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Ibn Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz; Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; and Hisham al-Nazir, minister of petroleum and natural resources.

Receives PLO's 'Arafat

JN2305144989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 23 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received at his place of residence this morning Mr Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

They discussed topics on the agenda of the extraordinary Arab summit, which will be opened this evening.

They emphasized the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking, the need to support the PLO and the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territories, and the need to coordinate positions in the Arab summit.

Viewpoints were completely identical. The audience was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

The audience was also attended by the delegation accompanying Mr 'Arafat to the summit.

Receives Amir of Bahrain

JN2305142389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 23 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received at his place of residence this afternoon His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of fraternal Bahrain.

They discussed topics on the agenda of the extraordinary Arab summit.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and the official delegation accompanying the amir.

Receives UAE President

JN2305141289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 23 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received at his place of residence this morning His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates.

They discussed topics on the agenda of the extraordinary Arab summit.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and the official delegation accompanying Shaykh Zayid.

YAR's Salih Meets Djibouti, Sudan Leaders

JN2305201989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 May 89

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, paid a visit to his brother President Hassan Gouled, president of sisterly Djibouti, at his residence in Casablanca at 1200 Morocco time. During the meeting, the two leaders pursued discussions and coordination within the framework of the extraordinary Arab summit being held in Casablanca. The two presidents also discussed fraternal relations in the field of joint cooperation between the two sisterly countries. [passage omitted]

The brother president then paid a visit to his brother Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council, at his residence. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed aspects of coordination between the two countries' positions on the issues to be discussed at the extraordinary Arab summit. They also discussed fraternal relations and issues of concern to the two sisterly countries. [passage omitted]

Qabus Meets Leaders at Casablanca Meetings

JN2305144589 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus bin Sa'id received at his place of residence in Casablanca today His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the fraternal State of Bahrain.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Omani and Bahraini delegations accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and His Highness the Amir of Bahrain.

His Majesty the Sultan also received at his place of residence His Excellency 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The members of the Omani delegation attended the meeting.

His Majesty the sultan also received His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister. The meeting was attended by the members of the official Omani delegation and the official Kuwaiti delegation.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus bin Sa'id also received at the place of his residence in Casablanca today His Excellency Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. The members of the delegations accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Chairman al-'Attas attended.

These meetings between his majesty the sultan and Arab leaders sought to exchange views and hold consultations with them on current Arab issues and to work to make the summit a success to help it come up with effective resolutions that would serve Arab issues and Arab solidarity. These meetings are also aimed at exchanging views on the topics listed on the summit's agenda. His Majesty Sultan Qabus bin Sa'id is heading the Sultanate's delegation to the extraordinary Arab summit, which is scheduled to begin its meetings in Casablanca, the Kingdom of Morocco, later today.

Their Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses the kings, presidents, and amirs of Arab states met last night at the place of residence of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco in Casablanca. These leaders who arrived in Casablanca yesterday to participate in the extraordinary Arab summit held consultations on the summit meetings and the topics listed on its agenda.

Egypt Reconciles Palestinian-Syrian Views

NC2405133889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1201 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 24 May (MENA)—Participating in the Arab League meetings at the foreign minister and summit levels following a 10-year absence, Egypt immediately has begun to assume its natural role.

The Egyptian delegation has succeeded in reconciling Palestinian and Syrian views, reflected in the two working papers that the Palestinian and Syrian delegation submitted at the sumit meeting, by putting forward a compromise formula [sighah tawfiqiyah] acceptable to both sides.

'Abdallah al-Hurani, member of the Palestinian delegation, disclosed that the Egyptian delegation has prepared a draft resolution based on the two blueprints submitted by Palestine and Syria. The Egyptian version will be discussed by the summit participants at this afternoon's session.

Political observers view the draft resolution prepared by the Egyptian delegation on the basis of the Palestinian and Syrian views as Egypt's first diplomatic success since it was readmitted into the Arab League less than 24 hours ago. Egypt was one of the six members in the committee that had been formed to prepare a draft resolution on the Palestinian issue for submission to the summit leaders.

The draft resolution includes support for the Palestinian peace initiative, a plan for international diplomatic action to secure backing for that peace plan, and the formation of a five-member committee of the countries concerned with the international conference for Middle East peace. That committee, comprised of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Lebanon, will seek to speed up preparations for an international conference. The resolution also called for political and financial backing of the intifadah [uprising].

Political observers said Egypt is capable of playing an active role in consolidating Arab efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis, to reconcile the disputing Lebanese parties, and to bring about an Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation.

PLO Spokesman on Arab Paper, Shamir Plan, Summit
JN2305192989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 23 May (WAKH)—PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman has said that the Egyptian working paper, which came about to reconcile the positions contained in the Palestinian working paper and those contained in the Syrian working paper, has become an Arab working paper submitted to the emergency Arab summit.

In an exclusive statement to WAM, 'Abd al-Rahman said that the paper has been submitted to the Arab leaders. He added that the paper contains several points, foremost among which are constant and regular support for the Palestinian intifadah [uprising], particularly during the current stage facing the intifadah and help to confront the continuous escalation of Zionist repression and terrorism, which seek to halt the intifadah.

'Abd al-Rahman added that the points included in the working paper also call for supporting the Palestinian initiative on the international moves it has been making, and also for backing the convening of an international Middle East peace conference. They also contain an agreement on the formation of a committee comprising the five confrontation states; namely Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine, to prepare for the said conference.

The PLO official said that the recommendations approved by the drafting committee yesterday also call for the formation of a higher committee to be headed by the chairman of the emergency Arab summit to be entrusted with making moves on the international level, particularly with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and other big powers to bolster international recognition for the State of Palestine and help convene the international conference.

In reply to a question on the plan proposed by Israeli enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman pointed out that this issue will be tackled as a plan targeting Palestinian national independence and the intifadah with the aim of quashing it and preventing the Palestinian people from establishing their independent state and exercising their right to self-determination. He indicated that the PLO views elections in the occupied Palestinian territories as the path for national independence if democratic and honest elections are held and added that this is inconceivable in the way outlined by the terrorist Shamir. He went on to say that the PLO believes that Shamir's plan is divorced from the notion of elections as a path for the realization of independence.

On the Lebanese issue, Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman affirmed that the summit "will lay down the foundation stone for the restoration of Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity."

'Text' of Palestinian Paper
TA2305164889 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 23 May 89 pp 1, 11

["'Text' of Palestinian working paper to be presented to the Arab summit in Casablanca"—AL-FAJR editor's note]

[Text] Support for the Palestinian peace initiative based on the Arab peace plan and international legitimacy.

Formation of a supreme Arab committee at the summit level, headed by the Moroccan monarch King Hassan II as chairman of the Arab summit, and with the membership of a number of Arab leaders or their representatives, in order to follow up the moves in the international arena and assure the success of the Palestinian initiative.

Support for the Palestinian position in rejecting the Israeli Government's initiative on holding elections under occupation, which is aimed at striking at the popular intifadah [uprising]; in forging the will of the Palestinian people; and in circumventing the PLO and the Palestinian people's national rights. The need to adhere to ending the Israeli occupation and placing the occupied territories under UN supervision for an interim period to allow the Palestinian people to exercise their right of self-determination.

Formation of a five-member committee comprising Egypt, "the State of Palestine," Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon to "coordinate and prepare the convocation of the international peace conference on the basis of the Arab summit resolutions and international legitimacy."

To call on the United States to develop its position toward the PLO and the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, and to recognize explicitly their right to self-determination.

Affirmation of the resolutions of previous summit conferences regarding Israel's withdrawal from all "Palestinian and Arab lands" occupied in 1967, "settlement of

the Palestinian refugee problem according to UN Resolution 194," and convocation of an international conference on peace in the Middle East with the participation of the Security Council's five permanent member states and the other parties to the conflict, "including the State of Palestine in an independent delegation, for the purpose of conducting negotiations, making the final arrangements for the peace process on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, realizing the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, and agreeing on security guarantees for all states, including the State of Palestine."

Palestinian Group Appeals to Arab Summit

LD2405093289 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0620 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Tunis, 23 May (SPA)—The Unified National Command of the Palestinian Intifadah [uprising] has appealed to the emergency Arab summit conference to support the Palestine National Council's initiative, and to foil attempts to dissolve the Palestinian entity.

In a statement circulated by the Palestine News Agency WAFA, the command urged the emergency Arab summit to uphold the international conference as the means for the establishment of a just peace in the region.

It saluted the struggle of the Palestinian people throughout Palestinian territory and affirmed the need for the escalation of the intifadah in the face of the bestial repression exercised by the occupation forces.

The command warned the Palestinian people about the poisons being fomented by the Arabic broadcasts from the Israeli radio and television and called upon the Palestinians not to conduct any interviews with the Arabic services of the Israeli radio and television.

PNSF Sends Memorandum to Arab Summit

JN2305121689 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] has addressed a memorandum to the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Casablanca, Morocco, on 23 May 1989, through the Arab League secretary general. The memorandum says:

Your Majesties, Your Excellencies: The Palestinian cause is the first point on the agenda of your extraordinary summit because of the nature of the struggle and its targets, which are not confined to the Palestinian people but affect the present and future of the Arab nation, being the central cause of the Arab nation. This cause is the basic axis of the various issues you will be discussing. Efforts are needed to protect this pan-Arab cause and preserve it from the threat of disintegration.

Your conference is being held as the heroic intifadah [uprising] has been continuing for about 18 months, with ever-increasing momentum, growing in strength, and establishing new facts within the framework of the expanding Palestinian struggle to defeat this occupation and restore the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, which were confirmed by your previous resolutions, as well as legitimate international resolutions. The intifadah has revealed the Palestinian people's limitless capacity for struggle and their persevering insistence on liberating their land and restoring their national rights to their soil, despite the various means of savage Zionist repression and tyranny. The intifadah has created growing dimensions that reflect positively on the prospects of realizing the aims of the Palestinian struggle on the various Arab and international levels, as well as on the level of the domestic conditions of the Zionist occupiers.

The PNSF memorandum says:

One of the results of this blessed intifadah is the creation of unprecedented international interest and movement in support of the Palestinian cause, thus increasing sympathy for our people's national cause; denouncing the Zionist occupiers' repressive measures; and exposing the racist, expansionist nature of the Zionist movement and the nature of the Zionist entity, which was established on Palestinian land. The intifadah has uncovered the great similarity between this entity and the racist regime of South Africa.

However, the moves of a number of Western states, led by the United States, are essentially aimed at aborting the Palestinian struggle, ending this intifadah, diffusing its positive effects, and extricating the Zionist entity from its growing dilemma, which was created by the continuous, comprehensive uprising. Moreover, [these moves are aimed] at liquidating the Palestinian people's inalienable rights to their homeland by bringing pressure to bear on the PLO and imposing serious concessions on it at the expense of our Palestinian people's national and pan-Arab cause with the aim of serving the Zionist projects of expansion. This has been highlighted by the new U.S. Administration's support for the election plan expounded by the head of the Zionist government, Yitzhaq Shair, with the aim of implementing a sort of self-administrative rule for the inhabitants of the territories in accordance with the Camp David agreements. This essentially means ending the uprising, perpetuating the Zionist occupation, and granting it international legitimacy.

What is more serious is that the dominant leadership of the PLO is dealing with these moves through a path of concessions that will erode inalienable Palestinian national rights and renounce the Palestinian national consensus and the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions, which have enjoyed the support of all the Palestinian factions. This concessionist path has been

the basic cause for the condition of division, fragmentation, and differences that have been afflicting the Palestinian arena for a number of years, and is the barrier that prevents the restoration of the Palestinian national unity of struggle.

The PNSF memo says:

This concessionist trend took serious dimensions in the resolutions that were issued by the PNC emergency session in Algiers in the fall of 1988. During this session, it was decided to accept the resolution of partitioning Palestine—a decision that contradicts the Palestine National Charter, which stipulates that the Palestinian land is the homeland of the Palestinian people. It was also decided to accept Resolutions 242 and 338, which had been rejected by the previous PNC sessions because they confiscated the Palestinian people's national and inalienable rights and dealt with the Palestinian cause as a refugee problem.

At a press conference in Geneva, Yasir 'Arafat recognized the Zionist entity. He also renounced what they call terrorism, thus describing the Palestinian armed struggle as terrorism. Armed struggle is a natural right for the persecuted and colonized peoples who struggle for liberation from foreign occupation. This was confirmed by the UN resolutions and charters. Statements were also made here and there by Yasir 'Arafat calling for the establishment of a confederation and a common market with the Zionists and for direct negotiations with it. These statements also speak about subjugating the demand for the independent Palestinian state to compromise solutions. This conflicts with the short- and long-term objectives of the Palestinian struggle. Finally, during his visit to Paris, Yasir 'Arafat announced that the Palestine National Charter, which has constituted a background of the Palestinian consensus and the basis of the PLO, is obsolete and outdated.

In its memorandum to the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca, Morocco, the PNSF adds:

These concessions, which have come in response to the U.S. conditions for opening a dialogue with the PLO, have not introduced any true change in the U.S. position toward the Palestine question—a position that fully supports the hostile, expansionist Zionist policy and is fully hostile to the Palestinian struggle and national rights. The Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is very weak and is only a means to set U.S.-Zionist conditions and issue requests for new concessions.

The United States still categorically refuses to recognize the PLO, the independent Palestinian state, and the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland and property. The United States is also still using all its world financial and political weight to prevent the PLO from joining the international organizations and bodies as a full member. As clear as they are, these concessions only strengthen the arrogance and intransigence of the Zionist entity and its U.S. allies, and encourage them to adopt more extreme positions and use blackmail to gain further concessions without any tangible progress for the Palestinian people other than additional fragmentation, confusion, and the weakening of the struggle and morale of our Palestinian people and Arab nation.

In its memorandum to the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca, the PNSF adds:

Your Majesties, Your Excellencies: The peoples' inalienable right to their homeland is sacred and cannot become obsolete with the passage of time. No one, whoever he may be, is allowed to relinquish or cancel these rights. The French occupation and colonization of Algeria, which lasted 130 years, did not cancel the Algerian people's right to their homeland despite all the colonial claims before the independence of Algeria to the effect that Algeria was a French territory. Moreover, the white colonization of South Africa for more than 3 centuries has not voided the African people's right to sovereignty over their homeland. All world states recognize this. These states do not view the African people's demand of a democratic state for all citizens in South Africa, such as the state our Palestinian people call for, as aggression, extremism, or chauvinism.

In light of this, our Palestinian people are looking forward to your summit to safeguard their inalienable national rights to their homeland, to work by all means to bolster their national struggle, and to stop the course of offering concessions, which not only harms the Palestinian people, but also the interests of the entire Arab nation.

The Palestinian people are looking forward to seeing your summit's results and resolutions address their urgent requirements which help consolidate their struggle and develop it toward the achievement of national Palestinian rights. Foremost of these are:

1. Firm support for the Palestinian intifadah by making available the financial and political resources that ensure its continuation and mount its pressure on the Zionist entity, and employing all media, political, and diplomatic methods to put an end to the brutal oppressive practices against the masses of this intifadah.

2. Absolute rejection of Shamir's plan, not only because it contradicts the aims of the Palestinian people and the goals of the intifadah of removing the Zionist occupation and attaining inalienable national Palestinian rights, but also because it realizes the Zionist goals of perpetuating the occupation and giving it international legitimacy.

3. Mobilization of all political, diplomatic, and military capabilities to help the Palestinian struggle force the Zionist entity to retreat and withdraw unconditionally from all Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967, and guarantee the achievement of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

4. Protection of the PLO, which both the Arab summits, starting with the first constituent summit in Cairo in 1964, and the heroic struggle of our Palestinian and Arab people, helped establish, promote, and consolidate its status and role until it was established as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in all their locations and on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. The PLO should adhere to its charter and the resolutions of its national councils that enjoyed national unanimity. All attempts to undermine the PLO, delete its role, and empty it from its national liberation context by canceling its charter and program—which are based on national consensus—and imposing a defeatist capitulationist policy on it should be confronted.

5. We consider that all Arab kings and presidents will be held responsible by the Arab people both on the national and pan-Arab levels for perpetuating any sell-out of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people—the rights that have their legitimacy in the historical, natural, and pan-Arab background, and which are confirmed by the principles of the UN charter and resolutions, especially Resolutions 3236 and 3237. Any resolution issued by the summit that includes any concession of the national inalienable rights will not reflect the Palestinian people's will, opinion, or valiant intifadah.

Your Majesties and Excellencies: The PNSF is of the view that adherence to the Palestinian national charter and the unanimous resolutions of the national councils that enjoyed full Palestinian consensus is the correct and sound way to protect the PLO and help it restore its unity and national policy, and to ensure the participation of all Palestinian factions, forces, and nationalists in its ranks. It is the only way to maintain the Palestinian cause, confront all plots against the Palestinian national struggle, and enable the Palestinian people to promote and escalate this stuggle until they win their full national rights.

[signed] Palestine National Salvation Front.

Arab Summit Opening Session Delayed 'Few Hours'

JN2305195489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 23 May (WAKH)—WAKH has learned from Arab political sources in Casablanca that the opening session of the emergency Arab summit has been delayed for a few hours to give Arab leaders the chance to hold an unofficial closed meeting aimed at crystallizing a unified Arab position before the convening of the summit.

These sources have not given the time fixed for holding the opening session of the summit. The opening session of the summit conference was scheduled to be held at 1700, Casablanca time.

Summit Meetings Begin

JN2305203489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 23 May (INA)—The extraordinary summit began its work at the Royal Palace in Casablanca a short while ago.

King Hassan Speaks

LD2305213589 Rabat Television Service in Arabic 2026 GMT 23 May 89

[Opening speech by Morocco's King Hassan II at Arab summit in Casablanca on 23 May—live]

[Text] Thanks be to God; prayers and peace on our lord the messenger of God, his kinsmen, and companions; Your Majesties and Excellencies; Your Highnesses; my dear brothers:

We declare this session of your conference open. We in the Maghreb feel and sense the responsibility and honor that we shoulder. Our responsibility is to ask whether it is indeed necessary to convene this conference. We believe that each day brings a reason for convening a meeting of the brothers, irrespective of any problems and how deep those problems are, or even if there were no problems.

The honor, because this meeting is dominated by a new spirit in inter-Arab relations. What is this new spirit? It is the spirit of consciousness and responsibility of what we should be armed with in order to confront the coming century, which is only 11 years away.

This after having envied—I am not saying grudged—after having envied our brothers belonging to the Arab family in the far Maghreb for so many years. We have envied them because they formed the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. We have envied them because they were planning and coordinating in a regular way. After having envied them for so many years, God, may He be praised, has guided us in the far Maghreb to form the Union of the Great Arab Maghreb. This union became the light to make the dreams of the past generations come true and to take the future generations by the hand so that they enter the struggle for development and prosperity, armed, firm, and carrying out their choices and plans in the best way.

A few weeks past and the good news came that the Arab Cooperation Council was born and was standing on its own legs to add another stone to these groupings that have many qualities, the totality of which we cannot assess until now.

However, I am certain that we will be pleasantly surprised as we march day after day or year after year by the positive results in all the Arab states of this regional grouping. Yes, we have a framework, that of the Arab League, and this framework must not be a hindrance to

us. We have worked inside it, and we will continue to do so. We have adhered to its charter, and we will continue to adhere to it with regard to its philosophy, spirit, and ingenuity.

Yes, there are some chapters concerning the administrative aspect or the structural aspect that must be reexamined. They should be placed on the table for research discussion. But we firmly believe that the Arab League Charter and the three groupings will complement one another. Indeed, these groupings must not inspire a spirit of isolation. These groupings should be an incentive to us to make more contact, for everyone to work more and interact more in our aspirations, and to plan for development and prosperity, bearing in mind that until now we are not fully aware of our Arab potentials. Thanks be to God, we have the major basic sources of wealth, namely the human element—the Arab man; with his culture, education, deep-rooted affiliation, his spirit of struggle, and his astuteness and imagination.

We do have Arab brains and cadres in all domains. Really, we are entitled to be proud of them and to show our pride. We also have material capabilities only a little of which, I am convinced, we have already discovered. Let us praise Almighty God for guiding us toward this. We must also consider this year as the year of guidance for groupings and unity.

Before concluding my address, I want to say to my old friend, whom I have known for more than 17 years—His Excellency President Husni Mubarak—how happy I am to see him here among us, representing his people, the Egyptian Arab people, who have fought and struggled for more than half a century.

The Arab-Israeli question has been a burden to all Arabs, but it is only justice—and history must be fair—to say that the people of Egypt are the one that, since 1948, have always borne the brunt of the heavy accounts. This is without diminishing the bravery, heroism, and steadfastness of all the other peoples, including the Jordanian people, the Syrian people, the Palestinian people, and the justice and freedom-loving Arab peoples.

Before I give him the microphone, I want to conclude my address with this Koranic verse, asking God Almighty to realize it for us all. He says: Announce the good news to my servants, those who listen to the words and follow the best meaning of it. Those are the ones whom God has guided and are the ones enbued with understanding. God says the truth. Peace and the blessings of God be upon you. [applause]

Mubarak Addresses Meeting

LD2305224189 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2037 GMT 23 May 89

[Speech by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak at Arab summit in Casablanca on 23 May—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. My brother His Majesty King Hassan II, president of the conference; dear brothers; Your Majesty; Excellency; and Highnesses:

It gives me pleasure to begin my speech at this historic conference by addressing deep thanks and sincere gratitude to my brother, His Majesty King Hassan II, and the fraternal Moroccan people, who have prepared for us to meet in an Arab country that is dear to all of us. We are proud of their history, their struggle for freedom and independence, and their raising of the banner of Arab rights and dignity.

With great effort and ability, His Majesty has enabled the convening of this conference—which is historic by every criteria—amid a clear atmosphere, free of any impurities, full of fraternal amity and a sincere desire for joint unified action which determines the course of the Arab nation in a cohesive and strong procession toward a brilliant tomorrow and a new dawn. I am not exaggerating if I say that all the Arab peoples on all the Arab land, from one extreme to another, look to this historic conference with feelings of happiness and hope and a sincere prayer that what we all aspire to will be achieved. This aspiration has become a popular Arab decision: that this conference will lead to real positive results and decisive practical resolutions on all hard problems facing the Arab nation: before history we all shoulder the responsibility of confronting them with one heart which gives and does not tire from giving, one thought which determines the action and fate, and one desire which pushes forward but does not shake. If the Arab people in Egypt have expressed their great happiness at the unification of the ranks following the separation, the convergence of the word following the rupture, and the gathering after the separation, the Arab peoples with their leaderships and thinkers, have expressed with every clarity and sincerity their great happiness at Egypt's being among its sisters, performing its role at this historic turning point to a positive state in the building of the one Arab entity. The truth, brothers, is that Egypt, during the recent years has been absent and also present [as heard], thanks to your continuous efforts and true pan-Arab feelings, which were shown in a fully clear way by unceasing contacts, continuous consultations, and exchanged visits that never stopped.

Therefore, the Arab world was not absent from Egypt, and Egypt was not absent from its Arab world. Egypt's seat among you was filled by you. Egypt of the pan-Arabism and brotherhood never relinquished its role, and I thank you all deeply for all you have exerted and done so that the truth remains and so that all standards lead the one Arab family.

Dear brothers, if the Arab people all over the Arab land are truly aspiring to new tomorrows and dawns, the Arab people, with all the peoples of the world, are also following a new phase in international relations between the superpowers and big powers in the West and East, or in the internal structure of the countries of these powers. This new phase stands on two bases: The first one is the preparation of all climates for a comprehensive peace protecting mankind from a destruction which will leave nothing. With the development of nuclear arms, if a war

broke out, there will be no victory, nor defeat. The second base is the economic edification that realizes for the individual his right to an honorable life, the orientation toward forming blocs, and the unification of joint interests to develop this edifice. This comes after the piling up of the arms of destruction has exhausted the resources of these countries, and weakened their economy, up to a point that it overstrained their peoples, and killed any hope from the questions of the new generations among their sons.

Our Arab nation will not be excluded from these radical changes toward the edification of a new world, and our Arab world, with all its huge material capacities, big scientific abilities, and enormous spiritual energies, will have to have a role to affect [the others] and be affected [by them] on the new map of the world in various economic, political, social, and economic fields.

We must prepare ourselves for this role to avoid the experiences of the lost time and lost opportunities from which we suffered a long time—in order not to miss the train. No doubt the convening of this historic conference in this way, with the full participation of the leaders of the Arab nation in these sensitive times, constitutes a prominent sign on the road of collective Arab action, and places our nation on the threshold of a new era.

Perhaps what interests us in this long-term international development is its reverberations on security theories everywhere, and its contribution to the settling of regional conflicts, turning them from chronic problems into issues that can be settled on the basis of achieving a balance of interests and formulating solutions founded on a mutual give-and-take.

We are also equally concerned with the growing importance of economic regional groupings, most prominent of which is the EEC, which will be attaining new stages of integration with the onset of 1992, and the Asian economic giant, whose poles have multiplied to include medium and small states that did not have such a role in the making of the world economy.

Thus, if we cast a glance at the developments taking place around us, we must become more convinced of the need for us to follow a different path, whether in dealing inside the circle of the Arab community or in our dealings with the external world at a time when we are near the onset of the 21st century. If you allow me to give my view in this domain, I would say that I see that this path must be founded on a new conception of inter-Arab solidarity in accordance with the developing realities and facts in the Arab world and in the world around us. It should benefit us from the lessons of the past and its numerous experiences in which we had paid and are still paying a heavy cost of the lives of our sons and our resources at a time when other nations are vying with each other to entrench their role in the world of today and tomorrow.

I believe that this new concept of Arab solidarity can be established on the following pillars: First, to arrive at an agreed-on Arab formula for peace as being one of the aims of our Arab nation in a world that now places the realization of peace at the head of its aims and priorities, and which considers war as a danger to mankind and to the future of life on this planet. Perhaps it is permissible for us to take as a basis in drafting this formula the Arab peace plan that emerged from the Fes conference of 1982, although it is required that the new Arab concept should be wider and more comprehensive so that it can lay down an integrated framework for relations between the countries of the Arab family and all neighboring states.

Second, this formula also requires that we should define for ourselves an active role in the process of international detente so that we will be participants in drawing up its features and defining its path, whether this role is independent of the other roles or is part of the role of the nonaligned countries. The nonaligned countries were the first to call for lessening the acuteness of international tension and for limiting the dangers of the outbreak of a devastating universal war.

Third, we should agree on a realistic meaning for Arab solidarity, which we will be committed to in order to reach an understanding and agreement of views on the principle and its practical applications in the Arab reality, regardless of any differences in views or in policies.

Fourth, we should be strictly committed to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of each other, because the people of each country know better than others what realizes their own interests and are more capable of defining their path at the internal level. It is unfeasible that we be enthusiastic in proposing this principle in the sphere of international relations only to be incapable of honoring it and consolidating it in our narrower pan-Arab sphere in which there are common interests unavailable in the wider international circles.

Fifth, this is connected to the fact that we acknowledge a basic fact that dominates all aspects of human activity and governs the motion of history a great deal—that the many opinions and efforts are inevitable necessities that we cannot do without.

The law of life calls for diversity and variation in views and endeavors. We cannot change this law. There is no doubt that the Arab citizen from the ocean to the Gulf aspires to the day when the Arab countries reach the point when they can differ without having to drift apart or fight one another or go their separate ways.

Sixth, in the coming period we will have to direct a great deal of our thinking and attention to laying down agreed-on practical policies that may lead to more economic, cultural, and political cooperation and creating the basic framework for joint development and for realizing mutual benefits and strengthening the means of contact

and communications inside the Arab homeland. Here I propose that we should carry out a comprehensive revision of the agreements we have concluded and the resolution we have taken in the field of economic unity first of which is the agreement of the Arab common market that came into being in 1964 and the resolutions of the Amman economic summit held in 1980.

On the other hand, we must arrive at a common visualization of the relationship between us and the economic group that recently emerged in the international field, particularly in the shadow of European unification—which will be completed in 1992—and the existing Asian groups.

Permit me on this occasion to raise an idea for discussion and search in the coming months within the framework of frankness and openness, which should dominate relations between us at this crucial stage. The idea concerns the question of defining a view of the relationships between the Arab groups, which emerged recently, and the relationship between them and the Arab League as the mother organization and with the Arab countries that did not take part in any of these groupings until now.

Seventh, it is necessary for us at this turning point to pay a greater measure of our attention to the issue of assimilating modern technology and to the question of raising the level of learning in the Arab homeland throughout. This happens to be a complex and diverse operation and ought to be faced by Arab countries individually. Our efforts should be concerned with it and we should confront it as a group governed by the unity of aim and destiny.

Eighth, among the factors that would consolidate Arab solidarity, within the framework of this comprehensive concept, is that our dealing with the outside world should be constant and stable. We should, furthermore, continue our moves with the rest of international parties, particularly the friendly countries with which we have fundamental common interests, in such a manner that would make the collective Arab work stable. Moreover, it will make it easier for those parties to deal with us as a cohesive united group. Therefore, all these compel us to revive the Arab-European dialogue and direct it in such a manner that would achieve the best possible benefits for us. It is also paramount to activate Arab-African cooperation, which gives the two sides the same large advantages, because the two of them [the Arab-European and the Arab-African cooperation] stand with each other in the same trench and look at the cooperation as a sincere ally and loyal friend. Also, the situation warrants the revival of the South-South dialogue and the North-South dialogue, particularly during the convening of the summit conference of the most developed countries in the French capital this coming July.

Brothers, those were the most important components, which I see as necessary for determining the aspects of the Arab solidarity in its new image; not merely as a motto and an expression but as a reality in which we live and create and as a clear aim toward which all of us are committed to endeavor to translate it into a tangible reality. In the name of the Arab people of Egypt, I announce Egypt's commitment to Arab solidarity in letter and spirit and its eagerness to respect all its commitments and its pan-Arab engagements. This is a principle to which Egypt has, regardless of the circumstances, adhered.

Dear brothers, after this it remains to briefly present our attitude toward the two issues that we will debate at this conference: the Palestinian cause and the Lebanese crisis. Indeed, we do not want to talk in detail about these two issues, because our attitude to them is known, and because we believe that the convening of this conference in this ancient city will enable us to discuss them in this fratenal atmosphere, which is full of amity and mutual respect, with the aim of reaching a unified position toward them that serves our joint interests and one cause.

We need not say that we support the fraternal Palestinian people in its resistance of occupation and Israeli domination inasmuch as we support its right to choose the road that it sees to [enable it to] achieve its just objectives and legitimate aspirations. Here we must distinguish between the pan-Arab nature of the cause, which we concede and support, and the special nature of the burden shouldered by the Palestinian people, at home and abroad, which grants this struggling people the same rights we conceded to the remaining Arab peoples while they were waging their struggle for freedom and independence, the right to free choice, and the authority to make the decision.

Regarding the Lebanese crisis, the truth is that it has come to be a raging problem for all of us, which is exhausting us and burdening our consciences. We are not here in the domain of detailing the causes for its appearance and aggravation, or making theoretical assumptions on the way out of the crisis; rather, suffice it to decide that we should work with one mind on overcoming this predicament, with all its deep depressions, before the fire burns all the marks of stability and continuity. At a minimum, we must be committed to the success of efforts being exerted by the six-member Arab comittee, which you had formed to settle the crisis, to contribute to the achievement of national reconcilition and the withdrawal of all the foreign forces, and to enabling the constitutional institutions to exercise their legitimate powers. We must prove in word and deed that we are all allies and supporters of the fraternal Lebanese people, with all its sects and groups. We cannot distinguish beween one Lebanese and another on the basis of religious affiliation and political dogma. They are all equal in our eyes.

Dear brothers, we have all welcomed the halting of the war between Iran and Iraq, something that we deem a necessary introduction for the establishment of peace in the Gulf region and for ending the calls for war and for

putting an end to the reasons for tension and factors of tension in this vital region of the Arab homeland, especially that fraternal Iraq—which has retrieved its land with the bravery of its sons and the wisdom of its leadership—has proved its true intentions vis-a-vis the establishment of just and permanent peace on the bases of good-neighborliness and the respect of national sovereignty as well as territorial integrity of all the states of the region.

Brothers, the ideas I have outlined before you are my thoughts, which I very truly and sincerely imagine that they can contribute to lighting the path. We all realize that the path is difficult, and long. We all realize that we are facing a difficult test with every hope at these immortal moments vis-a-vis our leadership responsibilities and our peoples who give us confidence. Perhaps I do not overstep the fact if I say that it is the most difficult test and that we have no choice in it—either we embark with every faith and courage—the way a storming fighter embarks [on his task]—and then tomorrow will be ours if we have today in our grasp, or we retreat to the field of wasted time and opportunities, and then we will have no tomorrow for which we aspire, then our present will slip out of our hands. I am totally confident, however, that we will embark [on our task] because we believe and because we are capable!

Let this meeting be a historical affirmation of the one Arab nation and the one Arab people and an Arab voice that will be heard throughout the world. Yes, we are at the level of challenge. Yes, we are at the level of responsibility. Yes, we are a nation that is writing the history of glory and pride and establishing a lofty edifice being manufactured by a new concept and being consolidated and protected by the harmony of hearts that have pledged to their God and peoples to reciprocate unlimitedly in their sacrifice and on the unity of destiny that has not been shaken by the hurricanes. I repeat my thanks to my brother, His Majesty King Hassan II, and express to you all—brothers—my sincere amity and appreciation for this genuine fraternal spirit you have shown toward the people of Egypt and toward me personally. I pray to God Almighty to make us successful and to look over us and guide our steps. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Summit To Be Extended

NC2405061589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 24 May (MENA)—MENA has learned that the Arab kings and presidents have decided to extend the Arab summit conference one more day. Thus the summit will end its work tomorrow morning, Thursday. The conference was scheduled to end its work today. MENA has also learned that the Arab leaders will complete their discussions and consultations either through closed sessions or during their presence in their places of residence in the (Anfa area) in Casablanca.

Closed Session on Lebanon

NC2305193289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1918 GMT 23 May 89

[Excerpt] Casablanca, 23 May (MENA)—MENA has learned that during their closed session, which is still in progress, the Arab leaders are discussing the issue of Lebanon's representation at the emergency summit. Lebanon's seat is still vacant during the closed session. [passage omitted]

Lebanon Presence Unresolved

NC2405065889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 24 May (MENA)—A responsible Arab source in Casablanca has told MENA that the problem of Lebanon's representation at the emergency Arab summit conference has not yet been resolved. This follows the refusal by the two disputing parties in Lebanon to permit the Lebanese ambassador to Tunis to represent them.

Contacts were held with the Lebanese parties to secure their agreement for the Lebanese ambassador in Morocco to represent them. Although both parties agreed to this, it has not been possible to implement it because the Lebanese ambassador to Morocco is not present there at the moment.

Session Opens, Postponed

LD2405145289 Rabat Television Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 May 89

[Opening of 24 May session of Arab summit in the Casablanca Royal Palace chaired by King Hassan II; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] [Hassan] Such bilateral or multilateral meetings have the same level of benefit, seriousness and positiveness as this meeting of ours. For this very reason, I suggest we suspend the meeting and let whoever wants to have bilateral, tripartite, and quadripartite meetings do so to facilitate resolving the 3 topics that are awaiting us: the Palestinian problem, the problem of Lebanon, and the situation betwen Iran and Iraq, this evening.

All the aforementioned topics require us to exercise deep thought and give ascendancy to logic over feeling. Thus, I propose to you two things: first, suspend the meeting and agree upon the time to resume our meeting. Second, our first meeting this afernoon should be in camera—it should only be attended by the heads of the delegations and no one else, so as to be able to exercise frankness and give our opinions clearly and openly. In the third stage, after each one of us has said whatever he has to say, it will be possible for us to meet accompanied by our experts and aides to start drafting the resolutions. Would you agree? Good, no objections. Now what is the time

you would suggest for our evening's meeting? 1800, Brother Mu'ammar has proposed 1800. Do you all agree on such a time? Brother Saddam has something to say:

[Huseyn] Your Majesty, when we say 1800, it means we should all be here at 1800.

[Hassan] When we say our meeting should start at 1800, it means we all should be here at 1745 hours.

[Husayn, interrupting] I meant we should start our journey from wherever we are going to be before 1800 so that we will be here at 1800 the meeting can effectively begin at 1800.

[Hassan] With your agreement, we should agree that we will close the doors and whoever does not arrive in time we leave outside [laughter]

You have all agreed that by 1800 we will all be sitting in this room, God willing. The meeting is suspended.

Palestian Affairs

'Text' of 'Intifadah' Leadership Call No 40

JN2305180089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 23 May 89

["Text of Call No 40, the call of heroism and steadfastness, issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising, the militant arm of the PLO, in all occupied Palestinian territories" on 22 May—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call, call, call. No voice rises above that of the intifadah [uprising]. No voice rises above the voice of the call of heroism and steadfastness. Call No 40 issued by the PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising.

O masses of the revolution. While inscribing the most sublime feats of heroism, we will shortly mark the 22d anniversary of the defeat of the Arab armies and the defeat of Arab regimes on 5 June 1967. At that time, the Palestinian rifle took root to constitute a revolutionary substitute and to remain the light that would give us hope in the darkness of defeat.

We are also approaching the 7th anniversary of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, the anniversary of the legendary steadfastness baptized by the blood of our revolutionaries in heroic Beirut. We are marking the anniversary of the amazing silence of the Arabs, who have continued to watch and place bets on the defeat of the revolution and the PLO. However, our people have remained the stronger. Thus, they have defeated Brzezinski, U.S. policy, and the Reagan plan through feats of heroism and sacrifice. We are currently reliving the past. The blood of our people, their sacrifices, and the heroic feats being displayed by the intifadah, which has defeated the Zionist repression machine, have won great support and solidarity throughout the world—except in the Arab homeland, which has not seen one demonstration or march in support of the intifadah.

Our Arab peoples are now called upon to overcome the terrible barrier of silence and to express their real solidarity with our unarmed people who are waging their war of national independence armed only with their will and their steadfastness.

O heroes of challenge, confrontation, and giving. Your sacrifices and blood, which has soaked the homeland's soil, and your daily giving, bring the day of salvation closer, the day of freedom and independence; shorten the life of the hateful occupation; and forge everyday the contemporary history of our people, inflicting defeat on the liquidatory schemes of the occupation. Here the Shamir conspiracy, the official conspiracy of the enemy's government, is being thrown by our people, through their heroic confrontations, into the cesspools of history. It has suffered the same fate as the Camp David accords, the self-rule scheme, and the power-sharing plan. However, the enemy refuses to acknowledge defeat. We see the occupation army and authorities lose their nerve and continue to harbor delusions that they can revive the military option vanquished by the intifadah through the escalation of repression and daily massacres.

And we hear the calls made by the failure Sharon and others calling for more deportations and administrative detentions; and the racist calls by Zionist officials calling for dismissing Arab workers. All of these calls, taken together with the horrendous repressive measures, such as shooting and wounding hundreds and martyring scores of the legions of confrontation who have resolved to continue the struggle against the occupation, the imposition of curfews on more than 1 million Palestinians, the storming of villages and camps, and the demolition of tens of houses. All of these measures, which are the official policy of the enemy's government, are taken in a desperate bid to terrorize our heroic people and create the atmosphere to foster Shamir's conspiracy, which seeks to liquidate the Palestine cause and abort the intifadah. These measures are supported by the United States, which is hostile to the legitimate national rights of our people, supports and backs the crimes of the occupation, and ignores the will of the international community.

The U.S. Administration quickly accepted Shamir's plot, which is essentially based on the Camp David accords, which have been rejected by our people, and is trying through its envoys—the latest being Dennis Ross—to provide support and nourishment to this plot and to expose our people to more suffering and terrorism.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising, backed by the masses of our people, reaffirms its categorical rejection of Shamir's plot and the holding of political elections under occupation. Elections can only take place after the removal of the occupation, under

international supervision, and as a first step toward convening the international conference. The conference is the only way to achieve peace in the region and recognize the Palestinian people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO. The leadership also affirms our people's determination to face the challenge and defeat all plots completely.

O heroic people, after the occupation failed to defeat the resolve and steadfastness of the PLO's people—the people of the national independence war—it is now trying hopelessly to sow discord among the parties of the unified national ranks confronting it and to undermine our people's national unity. Our unity was consecrated by blood and deepened by daily sacrifices and confrontations. This unity is too strong to be shaken by the occupation's intrigues, biased rumors, and lies in the media about the sons of our people and their national credibility, such as the talk about attacks on certain citizens' property. The occupation and its agents want to split the nationalist forces and turn their attention away from the resistance. However, our heroic masses in Gaza, in the camps of heroism, and in all the confrontation battlefields are as devoted to national unity as they are to the revolution and the glorious intifadah. They can avoid these narrow-minded factional problems, deepen the spirit of solidarity and comradeship, and place national interests above all other considerations.

Of course problems may arise, but they can be tackled in a positive and patriotic manner. They can also expose the occupation's underhand methods to undermine the unity of the nationalist forces.

Heroes of the stones and Molotov cocktails, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising, which is waging this struggle with you and by you, is determined that there will be no retreat or weakening. It is certain that Zionist terrorism and its oppressive measures will only make us more determined to continue our legitimate struggle.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising stresses the following:

1. It appeals to the Arab summit to support Palestine National Council's initiative; to work against the liquidatory schemes, particularly Shamir's conspiracy; to reject unilateral solutions and the step-by-step policy; and adhere to the effective international conference as the means to bring about a just peace in the region. It also appeals to the summit to honor the commitments made at the Algiers summit to support the intifadah.

2. It condemns the U.S. position of procrastination and elusiveness, which shows disdain for the blood of our martyrs and the suffering of our people; and which continues to support and promote the Zionist schemes, represented by Shamir's conspiracy; and which opposes the State of Palestine's membership in international organizations.

3. It sends its militant greetings to the masses of sacrifice and heroism in the Gaza Strip and its camps of revolution and intifadah, especially the heroic Al-Nusayrat camp, and to our heroic people in Nabulus, Janin, Tulkarm, Hebron, and all locations of confrontation and intifadah. It stresses again that the masses of our people will step up the intifadah against the escalating brutal oppression by the occupation.

4. It greets the sons of our people who responded to the Unified National Leadership's call to resign from civil administration jobs. It also greets the people who were pursued by the occupation authorities for not paying taxes, and calls on our masses to express solidarity with them.

5. It calls for entrenching the boycott against Zionist agricultural products, punishing their promoters, and deepening the boycott in Holy Jerusalem, the capital of our independent state. It further calls on our national factories to absorb our workers, reduce the price of their products, and improve their quality.

6. It condemns the attacks against the property of honorable citizens by agents of the occupation, and stresses the need to activate guard committees to protect the property of our masses, our national institutions, and our crops.

7. It calls continuing the search for collaborators and agents of the occupation and making a lesson of them for those who betray their people and cause. In this regard, the Unified National Leadership stresses that tracking down agents is not to be confused with accusing people because they are political rivals with different viewpoints. Agents must be sought out because they are tools of oppression for the occupation, using its arms to kill and intimidate our masses.

8. It warns our people against the poisonous broadcasts of Israeli radio and television's Arabic service, and asks the masses of our people not to give interviews to them.

9. It pays tribute to the unification steps in the Palestine Liberation Front, and calls for further cohesion and completion of unity within the framework of the PLO.

10. It praises the French position, the welcome given by France to the president of the State of Palestine, and the outcome of the visit.

It stresses the need for physicians to take into consideration our people's hardship and reduce their medical charges.

While the Unified National Leadership pays tribute to all efforts that helped the Jerusalem Electricity Company overcome its latest trouble, it calls on all concerned to abide by the agreement concluded by the company's management, the trade union, and company staff.

It stresses the need to entrench trade union unity within a single union, to establish unified workers committees in all economic positions and facilities, and to promote the national economy.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising calls on our people to overcome and solve family and tribal disputes in the interest of the homeland and to unify our national ranks against the occupation.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising calls on bakery owners to sell bread and its affiliated products and not to transform bakeries into stores for selling drinks and foodstuffs.

O heroes of the strike groups, heroes of the popular committees. Greetings to you as you write the most wonderful chapters of glory against the invasion forces. Greetings to your holy stones and petrol bombs, which are burning Shamir's conspiracy and all attempts to abort the intifadah. Greetings to you as you strengthen the authority of the people as opposition force and an alternative to the defeated occupation's authority. Greetings to you as you are translating the decisions of the Unified National Leadership, the struggle arm and political extension of the PLO in the State of Palestine. Greetings to you as you make the occupying authority's measures to isolate the occupied territories a manifestation of your state's borders. You are determined to break through this isolation until you reach the capital of your independent state. Greetings to you as you implement the following struggle schedule:

23 May, Tuesday—on the convening of the Arab summit declaring a general strike in protest against U.S. support for Shamir's conspiracy.

27 May—a special struggle day in protest against the occupation's measures against our people in the Gaza Strip and the curfew on our heroes in the steadfast Gaza Strip.

28 May—to commemorate the convening of the first round of the Palestine National Council in the capital of our independent state, our masses shall organize national celebrations, marches, hoisting flags, and singing patriotic songs.

30 May—a day of solidarity with our brothers the prisoners of the intifadah, especially the detainees in Ansar III who are suffering the most extreme forms of oppression and tyranny by being deprived of the most basic human rights—and who are being threatened with murder at any sign of disobedience—and organizing sit-ins at the Red Cross headquarters.

1 June—the international day of the child—children's demonstrations will take place on this day to express our children's protest against the occupation and their insistence on freedom and national independence.

4 June—a day that commemorates the invasion of Lebanon, declaring a general strike as an expression of our people's utter rejection of Shamir's conspiracy which the Zionist enemy is trying to impose on our people.

5 June—declaring a general strike to commemorate the 22d anniversary of the Arab regimes' and armies' defeat and the occupation of our Palestinian state's territory, Sinai, and the Golan Heights.

9 June—declaring a general strike on the occasion of the intifadah's 19th month.

10-12 June—days of violent confrontation in all locations of struggle against the occupation army, settlers, and agents to confirm the failure of Shamir's project.

Victory is ours and defeat is the occupation's. Long live the PLO, leader of our struggle and our sole, legitimate representative. Long live our independent Palestinian state. Glory to the martyrs and let the intifadah escalate.

PLO Officials Comment on Baker's Statements

JN2305190689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The PLO has expressed satisfaction with the tone of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statements. However, it expressed regret because James Baker has spoken of the need for negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and not between Israel and the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of all the Palestinian people. This was stated by PLO Information Department Head Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh. For his part, PLO Spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman censured the U.S. secretary of state for asking the Palestinians to give up the idea of regaining Palestine in stages. 'Abd al-Rahman announced that the United States has not understood and has not recognized yet the real dimensions of the steps the PLO has undertaken. These steps, he said, are based on international Resolution No 181 which calls for the partitioning of Palestine into two states, an Arab and a Jewish state, not to mention that the PLO has accepted international Resolutions 242 and 338 which affirm Israel's right to exist and that the PLO had expressed its readiness to participate in an international peace conference.

Habash Faults Egypt's Return to Arab League
JN2305113289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] In Damascus, Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has affirmed that Egypt's return to the Arab League means the collapse of the entire Arab order and its surrender to Israel. Dr Habash said this return along with the Camp David accords takes place although the Israeli flag is hoisted in Cairo and an Egyptian ambassador is present in Tel Aviv and despite all Israel's repressive measures in the occupied territories, as he put it.

Saudi Arabia Pays $12 Million for 'Uprising'
JN2405075189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Rafiq al-Natshah, the PLO representative in Riyadh, has announced that Saudi Arabia handed the PLO a $12 million check the 22 May, covering the fourth and fifth installments of its contribution toward the Arab fund to support the intifadah [uprising]. Al-Natshah noted that since the beginning of the year, Saudi contributions to the fund have amounted to $30.1 million.

Algeria

Quadripartite Summit Held in Oran 23 May

JN2305140689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Oran—His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad this morning held a meeting with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid at the place of residence of his excellency the president in Oran. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

During the private meeting, the two presidents continued their consultations in light of the meetings held during the past 2 days.

At 1130 Damascus time, they were joined by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. At 1215 Damascus time, the three presidents were joined by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

During this quadripartite meeting, the four presidents discussed the latest developments pertaining to the extraordinary Casablanca summit in view of the unified views reached by the four leaders during the Tripoli meetings.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, had held a meeting in Oran last night. During that meeting, they discussed the topics raised earlier in the Tripoli meetings regarding the general Arab situation in the Arab homeland, the challenges facing the Arab nation at the current phase of its history, the issues pertaining to the extraordinary Arab summit, and the topics listed on its agenda.

Egypt

People's Assembly Seats Allocated to Opposition

NC2305193389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr has annulled the election of 39 People's Assembly members. Their seats were allocated to opposition members.

AL-AHRAM on 'Moral Threats' of Shamir Plan

JN2405102089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 May 89 p 7

[Editorial: "By Coercion"]

[Text] The announcement of Shamir's elections plan was accompanied by violent threats of severe punishments to Palestinians who might reject this plan. This, in itself, constitutes a moral terrorism to be added to the prevailing tyranny in the occupied territories.

The plan promises "free, democratic elections." However, the threats that have accompanied it completely refute this claim. The officials who drew up or endorsed the plan are angered to a point where they have threatened to impose mass sanctions against those who will not respond to the lies included therein. These sanctions constitute a clear attempt to deprive them of what has remained of their human rights, foremost of which are the right to work and freedom of movement. They also harbor threats of economic restrictions and deprivation of rights.

It is clear from the Israeli campaign that some Israeli officials who called for a political solution to the conflict did not mean a solution that would satisfy rights and consciences, but they were speaking about the only Israeli solution, first and last. The Israeli officials who endorsed the plan have viewed it as the best solution in the world. They believe it cannot tolerate any addition or deletion. An examination of the preparations that have preceded the announcement of the plan makes one immediately realize that those behind it have announced it as if it was a sacred thing that can tolerate no discussion or review. As the American saying goes, either take it or leave it. However, God help anyone who rejects it.

Among the features of the black comedy in this vicious plan is the fact that the authorities, who think too much of this plan, have expedited matters to force Palestinian figures under occupation to approve it. Instead of giving them a chance to study it and hold consultations on it, these authorities have forced a number of these figures to meet with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to express their opinion. However, despite all the force and coercion they were exposed to at the meeting, they rejected it, contrary to the reports on Israeli television which had said that they have blessed and accepted it. This is a comedy whose chapters are still going on!

Commentary Calls Summit New Starting Point

NC2305135489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 23 May 89

[Amin Bayuni commentary: "The Casablanca Summit Is a New Starting-Point"]

[Excerpts] Just as the historic Amman summit conference was a turning point in the life of the Arab nation, restoring concord and good feeling to the Arab march and formal ties between Egypt and the fraternal Arab countries, the current extraordinary summit convening on the soil of fraternal Morocco in Casablanca is a new starting point in the life of the Arab nation. It is the summit of Egypt's return to its natural place in the Arab League and in the institution of the Arab summit. It is true that Egypt has not been absent from the arena of pan-Arab efforts over the past few years and that it did not reduce its support of all Arab causes and continued to struggle sincerely and persistently for their sake. Egypt has performed and continues to perform this role out of

its pan-Arab sense of belonging and to fulfill its responsibility toward its Arab family. Nevertheless, with this summit it will carry out this role from within the heart of the Arab League and through the League's organizations and institutions. This will impart new momentum to collective Arab action. [passage omitted]

The Casablanca summit is a new starting point because it also confronts the many agonies from which the Arab nation has long suffered. It is sufficient to review the most prominent issues on this summit's agenda in order to understand this fact. The summit confronts the Lebanese crisis which has been a bleeding wound for Lebanon and the Arab nation since 1975. [passage omitted]

The summit also deals with the issue of assisting the Palestinian cause, which has already gained broad international support, and assisting the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] which has touched the world's conscience. Morover, the summit has emphasized more emphatically the Palestinian people's right to a free and dignified life and a state on their land.

The summit also confronts the issue of completing the peace process between Iraq and Iran. It is true that the war has ended, stopping the bloodshed that was threatening both countries along with the rest of the region. Nevertheless, the peace process must continue until a lasting peace is established so that the region can devote itself to construction and development.

Apart from dealing with these issues, we can say that this summit is a new starting point for collective Arab action in general because it is expected to formulate a general strategy to deal with the needs of the coming stage. This strategy aims to strengthen bilateral and collective Arab cooperation, particularly after the establishment of the three Arab economic groupings within the framework of the Arab League. The strategy is also designed to strengthen Arab-African cooperation and revitalize the Arab-European dialogue.

Through all this, the Arab nation turns a new face to the world, whose features are a unity of ranks and views and a coordinated collective Arab action by which the Arab nation will regain its international position.

Chief Editor Views Egypt's Arab Role

JN2105142089 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 19 May 89 pp 4, 5, 6

[Article by chief editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "Egypt and the Casablanca Summit"]

[Text] It is now virtually certain that, on a par with the Arab League members, Egypt will receive an invitation to attend the emergency Arab summit slated to open in Casablanca on 23 May, without having to wait for a preliminary session before the conference officially gets under way.

It is now virtually certain also that President Mubarak and Syria's Hafiz al-Asad will meet bilaterally, especially against the backdrop of Damascus' announcement welcoming Egypt's return to the League and new relations of solidarity with Cairo.

There is universal optimism across the Arab world that the conference will usher in more mature and rational inter-Arab relations and a new era of Arab solidarity with more clearly defined aims and objectives.

Despite Lebanon's absence from the summit, it is also hoped the conference will initiate moves toward the right solution that should extricate the country from its crisis.

Hopes are also held out for a kind of Arab consensus on definite and clear principles on the Palestinian question.

It is also hoped that Arab solidarity will receive a boost by working out a common perception of what constitutes higher Arab interests.

Egypt's return to the summit meetings, after a lengthy hiatus, means quite a few things: the end of fragmentation and disarray; the return of the soul to the body; the triumph of reason and maturity; and a new era of Arab solidarity under compelling international and regional circumstances.

It is fair to say that through patience, perseverance, and commitment to higher Arab interests, Egypt under President Mubarak has managed to again hold together the strands of the Arab fabric that had become worn and tattered. We are dutybound, however, to state that the credit for Egypt's return in such a dignified fashion must go to certain Arab leaders who had cautioned against division and fragmentation.

It must be asked, though: What kind of relations does Egypt under Mubarak want with the Arab states? And what does Egypt specifically want from the Casablanca summit?

I do not think that Egypt under Mubarak is interested in the kind of role which it played in the sixties; the thought, the course, and the nature of the relations as well as the objectives themselves are now different.

The thought is now different. It is inconceivable that a situation in which a single Arab country, regardless of its resources, shouldering the responsibility of deciding on behalf of the rest of the Arabs, could realize Arab unity of thought and ranks. This is now a thing of the past. It is equally inconceivable that there can be a submission by the Arab countries to a single center of power. This too is now a thing of the past.

But, Arab unity—in thought and ranks—can be achieved through common agreement on the supreme Arab interests, over which there should be no disagreement, and through the integration of all roles within a plan that has joint responsibilities and clear objectives.

The course has changed because the Arab mind has become more rational and wiser after it became clear from our many painful experiences that the road to the unity of thought and ranks must pass through phases which cannot be bypassed or ignored. Coordination, integration, unity of economic interests, and the establishment of a joint infrastructure—all these are stages that joint Arab action must go through so that it can achieve the unity of thought and ranks.

In other words, the course has changed because our previous, bitter experiences have shown us that unity cannot be achieved at one stroke amid sentimental feelings which are flamed by a brilliant leader or a capital that plays a vanguard role. But, unity of thought and destiny can be achieved through long-term organized action which should start by admitting the realities of differences and fragmentation and by admitting the reality of differences in economic interests. A realistic and wise working plan can then be built on this admission. Such a plan will principally aim to coordinate between these interests by removing the reasons behind their disparity. It will also connect these interests through integration so that they will really become common interests and the infrastructure and sound bases for unity of thought and destiny can be completed. On such bases, a sound and strong structure, with entrenched foundations, can be built, which no adventurer can destroy by a sudden blow.

Balances of power have also changed because Egypt is no longer the strongest of all in number and wealth. Egypt can no longer play the same role or shoulder all the responsibility for everyone, whether they declare this deputation or not. In its current circumstances, Egypt can no longer shoulder these responsibilities alone as was the case during the sixties. This is not because it was exhausted or because it faced many problems and was forced into defensive positions, even though it paid a price with the blood of its sons and future generations.

I believe that the balance of power, which changed in our Arab world with the changes in the balance of wealth and strength, now calls for a new kind of distribution of burdens which will correspond to the existing balances of power in the Arab world.

I do not believe that the redistribution of burdens will mean the belittlement of Egypt's status or role. It will actually regulate this role within the framework of its correct tasks because Egypt will remain—due to many cultural and social factors in addition to geographic considerations—the conscience of the Arab nation and the minaret of its thought; and because Egypt can, within the framework of this wise role, become the hope of democracy in our Arab world. It can become the ideal state in which the rights of the Arab man can get closer to their desired, ideal form. In addition to all of these considerations, Egypt will remain the reservoir of expertise, ability, and skill which can provide the Arab future with capable factors to participate in carrying the burdens.

The nature of objectives is now different. This is because the true Arab objective now is neither "the united Arab states" nor the "one greater state from the ocean to the Gulf", although these remain within the framework of the general pan-Arab dream because they are good to have as a hope that we seek to achieve. However, the true Arab objective now is to achieve, during the current Arab existence, a security umbrella to protect the Arab future amid changes in our contemporary world.

Iran poses a danger that cannot be ignored unless an Arab-Iranian reconciliation is achieved—a reconciliation that would safeguard, for two neighbors that will coexist together forever, their common interests on the basis of "good neighborliness" and the renouncing of interference in the other side's domestic affairs.

There is also a hidden danger in the East despite the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. This danger cannot be ignored unless a Palestinian-Israeli agreement is reached in accordance with which the Palestinians restore their right to self-determination, and the Israelis have a secured and recognized existence within the pre-1967 war border.

There is also a hidden danger in the north. This is because the Arab-European-NATO relations do not give a true expression of the balance of interests, and because our Arab world—including the richest states—suffers from this unjust distribution between the south and north and between the states possessing raw materials and the advanced industrial states.

There are also dangers in the heart, in the south, and in all directions. This is because we were unable to provide true solutions to the problems of the ethnic groups which live on or within the Arab borders—the blacks in southern Sudan, the Kurds in northern Iraq, and the Berbers on the shores of the Atlantic.

Because the thought, the course, and the nature of the relations as well as the objectives themselves are now different, I do not think that Egypt under Mubarak is interested in the kind of role that it played in the sixties. This is now a thing of the past.

Egypt under Mubarak has defined for itself an Arab role, that is more congruent in its thought, course, and objectives with the changes in our contemporary world. It is a more credible and mature role that is closer to a state of affairs that cannot be bypassed or ignored. Egypt has defined for itself a role that respects the right of diversity and multiplicity, and that calls for coordination and

integration before unity. It is a role that is in harmony with all roles, without dictation or hegemony. It is a role whose objectives are embodied by a just peace, stability, and security in the region, under which it can devote its efforts to rebuild life in the interest of its people.

Proceeding from this view, Egypt has several points to make. These are related to the need to reorganize joint Arab action within a new framework that would guarantee continuity and progress within a clear plan that is primarily concerned with the basis before the slogan and addresses interests before emotions.

The first of these is that Egypt believes it is not enough that the Arab summit meets only to confront an emergency situation or crisis. Regrettably, the state of affairs had deteriorated to a point where the Arabs were unable even to meet to face an emergency situation or crisis. I believe that all sides are now certain that the Arab League, within the framework of its current tasks and existing charter, cannot achieve anything worthwhile without a summit or at irregular meetings.

What Egypt demands is that the Arab summit should become a continuing political institution that meets periodically according to a realistic working plan that defines the priorities of joint Arab action and allocates work. This will pull joint Arab action out of its fixed framework which compelled it to be in the circle of reaction rather than action and to maintain the position of waiting rather than initiative. It also compelled it to confine its role to containing problems in a manner that is nearer to fabrication than reconciliation.

This is perhaps what was done by the Europeans, who are about to achieve their full economic integration, and even by the Africans who changed their African summit meetings into an existing and continuing political institution that meets once every year at a fixed date and venue according to an agenda whose topics are drawn from a clear plan that has specific aims.

The second remark deals with this Arab tradition which insists that full Arab unanimity should be the rule on which the legality of the Arab decision can be based. I do not think that anyone can differ over the fact that Arab unanimity is a target that should be preserved and maintained, but this unanimity should not turn into some sort of an undeclared agreement expressing an inherent desire to run away from confrontation, and some sort of way to maintain outward appearance as a result of our failure to deal with the essence.

Nobody disagrees that Arab unanimity boosts the forcefulness and legitimacy of Arab decisions, but Arab unanimity should not be a shackle paralyzing the effectiveness of joint Arab action if such a unanimity is impossible and if there are some who insist on discord or try to use the condition of unanimity to render the joint Arab action ineffective.

Egypt may have remarks other than those on the need to organize joint Arab action so that the summit would become an existing and continuing political institution. Egypt may have a special viewpoint regarding the priorities on which the Casablanca summit agenda should concentrate.

The Egyptian concern gives priority to three specific issues which I believe will also be the focus of attention for the rest of the Arab states. These are the Palestine question, the Lebanese problem, and the issue of Arab solidarity in its broad lines and learned lessons.

Yes, there is a connection between the Palestinian and Lebanese problems. It might be difficult to expect a final separation between them except within the framework of a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis because the Lebanese problem is in one of its aspects a symptom and consequence of the Middle East crisis.

However, there is an Arab homeland which might be divided or even lost if time is wasted. So, what can the Arabs do so that Lebanon will not continue to be a hostage of the general Arab impotence, the special Syrian apprehension, and the greed of the Israelis who are waiting for the victim to fall? There are also the interests of the interior groups who turned the homeland into armed gangs that kill all chances for national dialogue.

Lebanon represents the weakest link in the Arabs' position in their current endeavor to convince the world of the need for comprehensive peace in the Middle East on foundations that guarantee peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians. This is because others will always confront the Arabs with a fragmented Lebanon. The Arabs could not guarantee Lebanon's security nor the safety and unity of its territory on the basis of peaceful, joint coexistence among its sects. Also, others ask us, day and night: Which guarantees can this coexistence, which you hope to achieve between the Israelis and Palestinians, be based upon at a time when the Arabs have failed to do anything to provide peace guarantees for peaceful coexistence among the Lebanese sects?

The Casablanca summit will meet as relative calm prevails over the traditional civil war combat lines in Lebanon following the successful efforts exerted recently by the Arab League's committee to convince the different parties to cease fire. Most probably, Lebanon will have no one to represent it in the Casablanca summit hall. This is because Lebanon, which became divided and whose will was confiscated by others, could not agree on electing a new president and because the legitimacy of government there fell into oblivion between two conflicting governments, which are separated by checkpoints of armed men.

Here, we can talk about a specific Egyptian position, which believes:

First, the cease-fire should not be used as a justification for not discussing the Lebanese crisis in the Casablanca summit hall even with the absence of someone to represent Lebanon. If the Casablanca summit does not exert a clear effort to place Lebanon at the beginning of a correct road to exit from its current crisis, the situation will explode after the summit.

Second, there can be no solution to the Lebanese crisis without removing the factors of external interference and reducing their effects so that all Lebanese parties can achieve their national reconciliation away from external polarization.

Third, it is not pleasant or acceptable to see various international efforts becoming active under the slogan of saving Lebanon while the Arabs are sitting around watching, or trying not to oppose each other because they want to "contain" the situation without exerting a real effort to solve the core of the crisis and its original and clear reasons.

The Palestine question also comes among the Egyptian priorities. I believe that, in Casablanca, the Egyptian effort will concentrate on the need to achieve a full Arab agreement on a number of facts in the situation which have now become entrenched and cannot be reconsidered or reinterpreted.

The first of these facts is that the whole of international developments, including the Soviet stand which is no longer hidden, confirm that the comprehensive peace settlement on the basis of the "balance" of interests among parties to the conflict is the only way to solve the Middle East crisis.

Therefore, Arabs must mass all their efforts and resources in order to achieve a just settlement which provides the declared Palestinian demands—a Palestinian state, which can enter into confederation with Jordan and which agrees to coexist with Israel within secure, recognized borders, the 1967 borders.

Second, the need for the interested Arab parties—the Egyptians, Jordanians, Palestinians, and Syrians—to agree that the international conference is the proper forum where direct talks may be held among all the parties to promote a comprehensive settlement through stages of defined goals leading to the eventual recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Third, the need to stress that only the Palestinian side must have the final say in resolving all aspects of the Palestinian problem. Consequently, respect for the Palestinian will represented in the PLO requires that a clear stand be adopted vis-a-vis the efforts of certain Arab parties to undermine the will of the Palestinian people and abrogate their right to independent decision-making.

Another issue of primary concern for Egypt is Arab solidarity that has been buffeted for too long by disarray. Egypt argues that Arab solidarity will be enhanced if Arab summits become a constant institution that convenes periodically in order to deal with problems as they arise and before they fester, exacerbate, and accumulate, and deteriorate into armed conflict. The cause of Arab solidarity will be helped if there is absolute compliance with the principle of non-interference of the Arab countries in each other's internal affairs. Arab solidarity will further benefit from an Arab body modelled on the lines of the International Court of Justice at The Hague to which Arab parties may take their border disputes should these prove intractable.

Arab solidarity also stands to benefit if there is coordination between the new Arab entities if only to ward off future clashes of interests. Such coordination is also bound to reinforce the bonds of unity and thus preclude the emergence of axis that would obstruct common Arab action.

The Arab nation may be led along the right track toward unity by the Arab Maghreb Union countries, the Arab Cooperation Council, and the Gulf Cooperation Council. If, on the other hand, these groups' interests clash, this would set back the cause of unity. Therefore, early coordination between these entities will serve to widen the base of their shared interests so as to advance the cause of joint Arab action and to prevent future clashes of interests.

To sum up, what Egypt wants most from the Casablanca summit is to make a fresh start for more mature inter-Arab relations and to begin a new era of Arab solidarity marked by clearer aims and objectives.

Draft Law To Execute Drug Dealers Agreed On

JN2305203389 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 May 89 pp 1, 6

[By Mustafa 'Abd al-Ghaffar]

[Excerpt] The committee on legislative constitutional issues in the People's Assembly under the chairmanship of Counselor Hilmi 'Abd al-Akhar agreed in principle in its meetings yesterday afternoon on the draft law to amend some of the articles of law No 182 of 1962 dealing with fighting drugs.

The new law stipulates applying the death penalty and payment of a fine of no less than 100,000 Egyptian pounds and no more than 500,000 Egyptian pounds on whoever exports, imports, produces, extracts, separates, or manufactures a basic extract with the intention of trading or cultivating any of the drug plants. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Ethnic Clashes Reportedly Leave 10 Dead

AB2405081089 Paris AFP in French 0728 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Dakar, 24 May (AFP)—Clashes between Mauritanian ethnic groups in conflict reportedly left 10 dead on 22 May in Boghe, a town located in southwestern Mauritania on the Senegal River that divides Mauritania and Senegal, it was learned yesterday from diplomatic sources in Dakar. The report has not been confirmed in Nouakchott.

According to the same sources, a earlier clash, still in the Fleuve region but further st, in the town of Maghama, reportedly resulted in several Mauritanian casualties over the past few days. Most of the victims were reported to be Moors, the same sources pointed out. The recent clashes are between the Beydanes (Arab-Berbers) and the black Toucouleurs (black Africans) of the Fleuve region, the same sources pointed out.

A large number of black Africans were expelled while others fled out of fear from the northern part of Mauritania following Senegalese-Mauritanian clashes which left hundreds of people dead since 9 April 1989, it is recalled. Various reports circulating in Dakar say clashes have taken place on the Mauritanian side of the river. According to diplomatic sources in Nouakchott, although tension may be high in that area, one cannot, however, confirm whether there have been any victims.

It was also learned from various sources in Mauritania that leaflets have been circulating for several days now in the Mauritanian capital signed by the "Hizballah of Mauritania," and accusing France of being entirely "responsible for the butchery" perpetrated against Mauritanians in Senegal. These leaflets, which accuse France of supporting Senegal more than Mauritania in 'his conflict between the two countries, have threatened French interests "in Mauritania, the Middle-East, and elsewhere..." These leaflets, according to observers, could be masterminded by "radical" Mauritanians who support the pro-Arab and anti-Black policy and are in favor of the Arabization of the country, to the detriment of the prevailing bilingual system.

'Hizballah' Threatens French

NC2405072689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Knowledgeable sources in Nouakchott have stated that leaflets bearing the Mauritanian Hizballah stamp have circulated in the Mauritanian capital for several days. The leaflets accuse France of being totally responsible for the massacre committed against Mauritanians in Senegal.

The leaflets also accuse France of giving more support to Senegal than to Mauritania in the current dispute, and threaten to attack French interests in Mauritania, the Middle East, and other parts of the world.

Nouakchott Notes Recall of Ambassador to Senegal

LD2305233189 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] We have learned from trustworthy sources that our country's ambassador to Senegal has been officially recalled. On the other hand, some sources report that our general consulate in Dakar has been (?closed) following the latest events which resulted in the evacuation of tens of thousands of our citizens from the Senegal.

Malian Official Delivers Traore Message

AB2305103089 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 0730 GMT 23 May 89

[Text]The Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, yesterday received the Malian minister of territorial administration, Col Issa Ongoiba, a special envoy of Malian President Moussa Traore. This trip indeed falls in the context of the Malian head of state's mediation in the Mauritania-Senegal conflict which left over 200 people dead in Mauritania and Senegal.

Meanwhile, it is being said in Nouakchott that Mauritania has recalled its ambassador to Senegal. In Dakar, it does not seem that Mauritania will attend the Francophone summit in Dakar since its seat was still empty yesterday at the opening of the ministerial conference.

New PRC Envoy Presents Credentials

AB2205184789 Paris AFP in French 1357 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 22 May (AFP)—The new Chinese ambassador to Mauritania, Mr Liu Bai, yesterday presented his credentials to the Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, it was learned today from official sources in Nouakchott.

Sudan

453 Said Killed in Darfur; Chad Blamed

EA2305125489 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, 23 May (SUNA)—The victims of the recent incidents in Darfur Region have (?risen) to 453 dead and 123 [words indistinct] Chad. Seven policemen and four others were injured. This was clarified in a statement issued yesterday by the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, when a ministerial committee led by Mubarak al-Fadil, the interior minister, visited the area for 3 days.

The statement clarified that the incidents that occured in areas around Zalinge involved groups from Zalinge and Banayhalyyah, supported by Chadian groups [words indistinct] some Fur [tribesmen]. It pointed out that there is no evidence of any race from Kudufan region having participated in these incidents.

The statement stressed that all the tribes in the area had good relations for a long time except in 1981 when there were incitements between the tribes in the area [words indistinct]. It said a percentage of the tribal interference in border areas with Chad was created by Chadians. Chad wplayed upon this insecurity to serve its own interests and had started to (?support) the fighting both financially and morally. It pointed out that (?the rebels in Chad caused) the insecurity in Darfur and the flight of other tribes by providing weapons and [words indistinct] in other border areas.

The statement reported that the committee—made up of Minister of Housing Isma'il Abbakar; Muhammad Sa'd Umar, minister of state in the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Migrants' Affairs; and some senior Armed Forces, police, and security officers—had taken the necessary steps to provide relief for the victims and to contain the situation in order to prevent a recurrence, stressing the need to continue with the peace conference. The statement said it had been decided that, having established the extent of material losses suffered by the citizens, the ministerial committee would dispatch relief on an urgent basis to the victims to be distributed by the local authorities.

The statement praised the action taken by the officials, primarily the regional governor, and citizens to facilitate the work of the committee during the course of its tour and to enable it to study all aspects great and small connected with the incidents. The statement said that the spirit which had dominated the committee's tour and its meetings with officials and citizens heralded the likelihood that the peace conference which the leaders and prominent persons in the region were to convene would succeed. The statement prayed God would help everybody to achieve peace and security throughout the region.

Clashes Said 'Contained'

EA2305204989 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1424 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, 23 May (SUNA)—The security situation in Darfur which had been deteriorating following the recent tribal clash there has been contained. This was announced in a press statement today, Tuesday, by Mr Mubarak al-Fadil, the interior minister, following his return from Darfur. He said the police and Army had been issued arms and equipment enabling them to carry out their role. He said, however, that the most effective guarantee to ensure that there would be no recurrence of these incidents was to achieve peace among the conflicting tribes, a peace to be subscribed to by all the disputing parties. He said a reconciliation conference bringing together the warring tribes had begun in the region's capital, Al-Fashir, yesterday. Mubarak said the regrettable incidents had rendered the parties to the conflict keener to maintain peace.

The minister accused Chadian (?Government) [word indistinct] of having stirred up the strife and of inciting and arming one side against another [words indistinct]. He said that [words indistinct] plotted and organized armed raiding parties. The minister said that the recent incidents and [words indistinct] the arms and deterioration of the security situation and also that the Chadian Salamah tribe had participated in the incidents. The minister denied that there was [words indistinct] between the Arabs and the Fur tribe. He said a traditional conflict in the area had been exacerbated by the pouring in of modern arms in large quantities.

The interior minister said in (?his statement) that it is proposed to amend the popular defense law due to Sudan's political economic and social situation inasmuch as Sudan is experiencing [words indistinct] even in the event of the war ending, and to the fact that economically, Sudan's resources are insufficient to cover the needs of an Army which is to fulfill all of Sudan's defense needs satisfactorily. Such a situation makes it necessary to resort to quasi-regular forces (?subject to) the control of the Army and at a cost which can be sustained within the framework of the popular defense law. The interior minister said: There is nothing to be feared in organizing the citizens who have obtained arms so that they can defend themselves.

A battle involving firearms and [words indistinct] (?broke out among a number) of tribes in Darfur on 19 May. Reports say that those killed in the fray total about 450 [words indistinct]. Some papers, quoting eyewitnesses, say that foreign aircraft are overflying the region at irregular intervals.

Armed Group Intercepts Relief Train

EA2305143589 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, 23d May (SUNA)—A group of armed men, Sunday [21 May], intercepted the relief train heading to Aweil in Bahr al-Ghazal region, south Sudan, and took away the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Sudan Mr (Brian Wannop), who is accompanying the train, and three other foreign relief officials.

A statement issued Monday by the government committee supervising the relief operation, code named Operation Lifeline Sudan, said the attackers, who numbered one hundred armed men, boarded the train at an area some 15 km north of Malawi. The armed men had said they were searching for foreigners on board the train.

The attackers, later on, released Mr (Wannop) and the two other relief officials safely after they had robbed them of their personal properties, the statement said. The statement identified the two other officials as French, assigned by the United Nations to accompany the train. It said that the armed men did not touch the relief materials on board. According to the latest information nobody was hurt in the incident, the statement said, adding that orders had been issued for the train to continue its journey to its final destination.

The committee, chaired by acting social welfare minister Dr Abdul Rahman Abu Alkul, immediately after receiving the above mentioned information held an emergency meeting with the representatives of the donor countries and organizations, in which it condemned any action that could hinder the implementation of relief operations. It also confirmed the continuation of the train's journey to its final destination and hailed the workers of the train as well as Mr (Wannop) and the two other U.N. officials.

Rebels To Decide on Resuming Hostilities

NC2305142189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, 23 May (MENA)—Sudanese Interior Minister Mubarak al-Fadil has affirmed that he possesses some documents which incontrovertibly prove that John Garang, leader of the rebel movement in southern Sudan, has numerous relationships with foreign parties, primarily Israel.

In a press statement today, Al-Fadil urged Garang to return to the peace process. He also urged the joint committee, formed by the ministerial committee for peace and the rebel movement, to meet in order to agree to a cease-fire.

Meanwhile, John Luca, the Sudanese rebel movement's representative in London, affirmed that next week he will sign an agreement with Israel for a new deal which inlcudes tanks, bombs, and planes.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-SUDANI, he said that the Sudanese Government is not serious about peace. He noted that a decision to resume hostilities will be made this week.

Commentary Says Al-Mahdi Refuses Talks

EA2305111789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 22 May 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Hello listeners, as you and the world at large all know the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] is more than willing to see the continuing war ended. The SPLA's call for an end to the war does not mean that the SPLA lacks the military means to fight Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's troops. Our call for an end to the war is based on the fact that war cannot bring an end to Sudan's fundamental problems. This is why we are calling for a constitutional conference, and indeed, why we gave Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi a 1-month cease-fire to consider and agree on the convening of the conference.

After the cease-fire was announced by the SPLA, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi told the world that he accepted the unilateral cease-fire declaration by the SPLA leader, and that he would send a delegation for discussions with the SPLA. So far, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has sent no such delegation to talk to the SPLA regarding the cease-fire.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has failed to keep his promise. Having said that he accepted the unilaterally declared cease-fire, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi made an outrageous radio broadcast saying that the SPLA's unilateral cease-fire was unacceptable and that he did not want to talk to the SPLA because whatever they said was nonsense, in the belief that the SPLA has been weakened and that is why they are calling for a cease-fire.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi relies on his ill-advised advisers, who have nothing good to offer, but rather mislead him. However, once he is hit hard at the battlefront, he will consider talking to the SPLA. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is an unprincipled leader, a leader who considers his own rights but not those of the people he leads.

At this point, I call on you, Al-Sadiq's ill-advised soldiers in the Sudanese Army, to recognize that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is a rotten leader. I see no reason for you to continue supporting such a leader. Come and join the SPLA, which is the only powerful army in the Sudan. The SPLA has the strength to capture the entire country. We are aware that your leader, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, discourages you from joining the SPLA. As the enemy of the SPLA and the Sudanese people, he has to discourage you for reasons best known to himself. It is you who should take the initiative yourselves and join the SPLA. With your cooperation, the fundamental problems of our country will eventually be solved.

Bahrain

U.S. Senator Meets With Deputy Amir 23 May

JN2305204089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Manama, May 23 (GNA)—Deputy Amir of Bahrian Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah met here today with the U.S. Senator Mr Dennis [DeConcini]. The meeting reviewed bilateral relations as well as issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Salman ibn Hamad Al Khalifah, Brigadier Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the U.S. ambassador to Bahrain, and a number of top officials.

Received by Prime Minister

JN2305204489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1640 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Manama, May 23 (GNA)—Bahrain Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah met today with U.S. Senator Mr Dennis [DeConcini] and his accompanying delegation currently visiting Bahrain.

Bilateral relations, regional developments in light of the cease-fire in the Gulf war, and issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Khalid ibn 'Abdallah Al Khalifah, the minister of housing; Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah, the minister of labor and social affairs; and the U.S. ambassador to the Island, Sam Zakhem.

PDRY

Planning Cooperation Protocol Signed With USSR

EA2305144289 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] At the Ministry of Planning this morning a protocol on the eighth round of cooperation in the field of planning between the Planning Ministry of Democratic Yemen and the State Planning Committee of the USSR was signed for the Yemeni side by Brother 'Abdallah Sa'id Abadan, chairman of the Yemeni subcommittee, and for the Soviet side by Comrade (Fedorov), chairman of the Soviet subcommittee for planning. The signing ceremony was attended by a number of the Planning Ministry's senior officials, a representative of the Soviet Embassy in Aden, and the deputy commercial attache in Aden.

The Yemeni-Soviet Joint Planning Subcommittee met in Aden from 13 to 22 May and discussed a number of issues related to cooperation between the two countries in the field of planning. These include plans for water and soil utilization, and developing fisheries resources, power, the building materials and construction industry, mapping for potential minerals, development of transport and communications, the food program up to the year 2005, and also Democratic Yemen's economic and social development until 2005. During the session the two sides also discussed the planning potential of the fisheries sector as well as the productive potential of the industrial sector and other planning matters.

Saudi Arabia

Jeddah Daily Comments on Iranian Power Struggle

PM2405090489 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 18 May 89 p 3

[Political editor's article: "What Does the Iranian Regime's Explosives Crime Admission Mean?"]

[Excerpts] Because the Iranian regime is laboring under a grand illusion, which has made it commit numerous bloodthirsty and foolish acts, it seems unable to benefit from the circumstances of international detente and from the real response of the region's states and their genuine desire for close cooperation to serve the region's interests, security, safety, and tranquillity, motivated by a sincere desire not to interfere in the affairs of others, impose hegemony, or use aggression as a solution and a means to hostile ends. [passage omitted]

The Iranian regime has tried to fabricate an estrangement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to raise its hostile tone with the approach of the pilgrimage season to justify its control of the people's wealth and, exploiting the people's desire to go on pilgrimage, to use a major part of that wealth to finance its aggressive designs and programs. By what right does that regime take the people's wealth, invest it, and earn illicit interest on it to serve its ends and cover its huge budget deficit and then blame the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its failure to honor its commitments to the people?

Here in Saudi Arabia we challenge the Iranian regime to tell its people the truth and admit its practices and the way it spends these funds. We challenge it to acknowledge that the real number of true Muslim Iranian pilgrims does not exceed the quota decided by the Islamic states in Amman, which is fair in all cases. What that regime wants is to have its enlisted troublemakers and agents infiltrate the pilgrims ranks and spread fear and terror—to terrify and terrorize Muslims. [passage omitted]

The Tehran regime's problem is that it is committed (before its people) to erroneous convictions and that the people have finally realized that they were misled, that their regime would destroy all their resources, and that the regime's designs would ruin the Iranian people, first and foremost. That is why these noble people are now in the vanguard against the regime, which is collapsing as a result of its confusion, desperation, and failure.

Having recently discerned the truth, the Iranian people have a right to do away with that regime which, apart from having misled them, has undermined their history and undermined Islam throughout the world, portraying Islam to other nations as the religion of terrorism, destruction, and anarchy.

Here in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia we assure these people that we support them because they constitute a part of the Islamic nation. We will not abandon them in the worst circumstances in the history of their glorious country. We will not only face the regime of the ayatollahs but will also not allow its falsehoods to spread through the world, because God is with us and with the Muslim Iranian people.

We at the same time want to tell the symbols of that regime that their score-settling and power struggle must not be at the expense of Iran's people and resources or at the expense of the nation and its eternal religion, Islam.

We want to reaffirm that the country will remain open to the Muslim people of Iran, as it is open to all Muslims of the world, and that these Muslim people should join hands with the other Muslim peoples, who will help them put an end to their tragedy. It is inconceivable that a major Islamic country such as Iran could become an instrument of destruction not only for Iran itself but also for other states and nations. [passage omitted]

Ahmed Khomeyni's admission that his father's bitter enemy and rival Montazeri fell from power because he hatched the explosives plot which our alert authorities uncovered during the 1406 Hegira [1986] pilgrimage season confirms not only what we have been saying for the past 2 years but also that all the smymbols of the Iranian regime were involved in that dirty plot against the Islamic holy places and against this nation. Otherwise, why has the revelation that Montazeri was behind that deplorable conspiracy come so late, and why did Montazeri remain the Khomeyni's heir apparent for over 2 years? Furthermore, why did the regime remain silent about that crime throughout, and why did it even do its utmost to deny the charge and plead innocence?

The liquidation process which began in Tehran recently and which indicates that more heads will roll is the reason which prompted Ahmed Khomeyni to acknowledge that crime in order to discredit his father's opponent, justify Montazeri's expulsion from the ruling circle, and save what is left of the collapsing regime's face. [passage omitted]

Out of loyalty to mankind and to this nation and out of eagerness to keep the Islamic faith pure and free from falsehood and folly, we here in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia emphasize that we will not allow any power on earth to wreak havoc in the land or spread falsehoods or sow sedition among Muslims.

That is why we are prepared to take a resolute and determined stand against that regime. We call on the Islamic states, all Islamic states, to fight it and not to allow it to bring them misery and tear them apart. It is not in the Islamic nation's interest, under any circumstance and for any reason, to be lenient with it or to appease it.

That regime aims to destroy all that is good and noble. Should we wait for it to achieves its objectives?

Further Reaction to Baker Remarks on Territories

Shamir: Sections 'Useless'

LD2305142389 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1406 GMT 23 May 89

[By Tom McMullan, PRESS ASSOCIATION diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Israel's Prime Minister Mr Yitzhaq Shamir today rejected proposals for talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in the search for a peaceful Middle East settlement. At an outspoken press conference in London Mr Shamir welcomed what US Secretary of State Mr James Baker had said about his peace initiative for the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza strip. But other sections of his address were "useless".

Mr Shamir, who is on a diplomatic offensive in Europe to counter bad publicity Israel has been attracting in the past year, has proposed that elections should be held in the occupied territories for Palestine self-rule for five years, during which time there would be further negotiations for "a permanent solution". The US secretary of state has commended the proposal for elections but urged Israel to give up plans for annexing territories in the region, halt the expansion of Jewish settlements in the territories, reopen schools and lay aside what he called "the unrealistic vision of a greater Israel".

Mr Shamir said: "We cannot accept, we cannot agree about some positions of Israel in future on issues which are not directly related to the peace initiative: for example what he said about greater Israel, the settlement problem and so on."

I do not think it was useful to raise it now." Asked if he was disappointed, he replied: "I think it was useless."

"We know they (the PLO) say they renounce terrorism. It was not true. They continue with terrorism. There are many facts to prove it. They say their goal is not the destruction of the State of Israel. But there is no change in the philosophy and aims of the PLO. I do not think the PLO could be a partner in the peace process in the Middle East. The PLO are not interested in any peace with us. What they want is to establish immediately a Palestinian PLO state in the area."

The establishment of such a state would mean the distruction of Israel, he said. It would become a base of "bitter aggression" directed against the State of Israel. "There will be an accumulation of sophisticated and dangerous arms. All of them will be directed against Israel. Arab radical countries will establish their bases in this country. It will become a new Lebanon."

Mr Shamir's attack on the PLO was seen as an indirect rebuke to Britain which has upgraded its relations with the PLO. Foreign Office Minister Mr William Waldergrave has regular meetings with one of Mr 'Arafat's senior envoys. Mr Shamir also hinted at areas of disagreement with Mrs Thatcher during four hours of talks at Downing Street yesterday. He said he found her sympathetic to the principles contained in his initiative but many details had to be worked out before concrete negotiations could begin. The British suggestion of land for peace was "theoretical". "I do not think it is a formula we should discuss now," he said.

Further on Shamir Remarks

TA2405111789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 May 89 pp 1, 10

[Report by David Horovitz]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shamir yesterday dismissed as "useless" and unhelpful U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's call for Israel to grant Palestinians their political rights and abandon "the unrealistic vision of a greater Israel."

British officials, meanwhile, applauded Baker's statements, and noted that Britain could not endorse Shamir's "fundamentally flawed" peace plan because it made no provision for a land-for-peace compromise. "Thatcher did not accept it, Britain does not accept it, and it won't be acceptable to the Palestinians either," one Whitehall official told THE JERUSALEM POST last night. [passage omitted]

The premier told Jewish leaders earlier in the day that he did not see any connection between settlements in the territories and the peace process. He added that just as President Mubarak had said, over Tabah, that he loved every grain of sand in Egypt, so Shamir loved every bit of Israeli soil. [passage omitted]

At the negotiating stage, Shamir told THE POST, "any party will be entitled to propose anything." He was sure, he said, that the "theoretical formula" of exchanging territory for peace would be raised at that stage, and the parties would then have to decide whether this was acceptable.

Shamir noted appreciatively that Baker had pledged "full support" for the main principles of his peace plan, and asserted that Thatcher, too, was "very sympathetic" towards it.

But British officials told THE POST that the plan was flawed in several areas. Yesterday's discussion between Shamir and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe "did not get anywhere," they said, "because the vital factor of territory for peace was missing."

They added: "The people to whom this must be acceptable are the Palestinians. And you won't convince the Palestinians on the basis of this plan. It needs to be firmed up—to deal with the monitoring of elections, with the voting

rights of East Jerusalem's Arabs, with the question of external Palestinians—and there has to be explicit linkage between the elections and a final settlement."

While it was understood that Shamir had obtained Israeli approval of the plan "at great political cost," Britain could not endorse it, they said, nor could Britain hope to bring Jordan's King Husayn back into the peace process on the strength of it. [passage omitted]

Arens: Statement 'Not Helpful'

TA2305175989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has said America's opposition to settlement in the territories is well known, but to state it so bluntly at this time was not helpful to the peace process. Nevertheless, Arens told reporter Yig'al Rom, there is good news as well as bad news in Secretary Baker's speech:

[Begin recording] [Arens] The good news in the speech is an unqualified endorsement of Israel's peace initiative, an appeal to the Arab countries to stop the economic boycott and begin a process of normalization with Israel. This, actually, is the second point of the four-point Israeli peace initiative.

The bad news is the talk about stopping the settlement activity, about the need to apply the formula of so-called territories for peace. These are things that we heard of in the past from the administration in Washington, and we know that that is their policy, and has been for quite some time. But I think that stating those things so bluntly at the present time does not help us in the peace process.

[Rom] Do you still believe that Israel can have both ways—dreaming of a bigger Israel and, on the other side, negotiating positively for a final settlement in the area?

[Arens] You know, Mr Baker has never visited Israel; I am sure he will. I think it's very important for him to come and see Israel on the spot. And when he comes—he is a man who comes from Texas—he will understand our way, that there is no bigger Israel, and there is no big Israel; there is a very very small Israel, and our dreams are that this small Israel will remain secure, and will be able to live in peace, and will be able to defend itself if it is attacked again. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Arens was speaking in Brussels, where he met European foreign ministers and called on them to support the peace initiative.

Further on Arens' Comments

TA2405151489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has just returned from his trip abroad. Our correspondent Natan Gutman is on the line from Ben-Gurion Airport:

[Gutman] Let us hear the remarks of Minister Arens, who has just returned from a visit abroad:

[Voice of Israel's political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami] Regarding the upcoming confrontation in the Likud Central Committee: Do you believe that Secretary Baker's remarks have changed your position or that of the prime minister in anticipation of the Likud Central Committee session?

[Arens] First, I think that what is significant in Secretary Baker's speech is the deviation from what has been customary in Israeli-U.S. relations: not to argue in public. These things that were said in public undoubtedly harm Israel, not only Likud Central Committee members. I would say, however, that at present, perhaps even more so than a week ago, it is important that we stand united. Perhaps the political struggle we are facing is more difficult than we anticipated. In this struggle for advancing our interests it is important and vital that we stand united in our support of this initiative.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you still believe you can pass this initiative in the Likud Central Committee?

[Arens] I think that Likud members in Israel in general and in the Central Committee in particular will understand this very well.

[Gutman] Minister Arens, how do you explain the discrepancies between the way you described your meeting with the secretary of state and his support of the political plan, and his speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee [AIPAC]?

[Arens] As I said before, in our meeting the secretary expressed his support for the political plan; in his AIPAC speech, in fact, he reiterated this support. The difference is that in the AIPAC speech he publicly disputed Israeli Government positions—one can perhaps describe them as those of the Israeli people—and this constitutes a deviation in Israeli-U.S. relations.

[Gutman] Mr Foreign Minister, how will Egypt's return to the Arab League influence the Israeli Government's peace initiative?

[Arens] Much depends now on the behavior of Egypt, on the leadership of President Mubarak. I believe that his return to the Arab League offers him the opportunity to lead the way toward peace and toward the normalization of relations between the Arab states and Israel. In fact, in our political initiative, we have assigned an important role for President Mubarak; he can contribute a lot, and I hope he will do so.

[Gutman] Minister Arens will now be asked questions in English, so let us summarize what he said before we began our live transmission. Regarding James Baker's speech, in which he said Israel must forget the dream of Greater Israel, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said that Zionism is

based on dreams and that we are entitled to dream. This is his reaction to Baker's speech. Arens also emphasized that, despite the AIPAC speech, the U.S. secretary of state continues to support the Israeli Government's political initiative enthusiastically and warmly.

These are the main points made by the foreign minister upon his return from a 10-day visit to Washington and Brussels.

Peres on Baker Remarks

TA2405070889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 May 89

[Telephone interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor on 24 May—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Friedman] With your permission sir, I would like to talk about the other issue on the agenda. That is the speech made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. In your reaction made public yesterday you expressed the wish to correct the secretary of state on only one point. You said that Mr Baker was mistaken in regarding one party's policy as that of the Israeli Government. The dream of the greater Eretz Yisra'el is not that of the government.

[Peres] As well as the matter of the settlements.

[Friedman] Beyond that correction, do you agree to all the other points in Baker's speech?

[Peres] No, I do not agree with all the other points. I would just like to tell you that intellectual honesty demands that we ourselves bear in mind that a negotiation process is taking place between two parties. We set out our position in our initiative. We must realistically understand, however, that there is another side, and America stands in the middle, continuously trying to form a bridge between the two sides. Anyone who thought that America would only build a pier was, in my opinion, deluding himself. I think someone once said that a pier is a frustrated bridge. We need a real bridge here.

[Friedman] James Baker specified the form of the final settlement in great detail. He called for an Israeli withdrawal from the territories according to UN Resolutions 242 and 338, and the setting up of a self-ruling Palestinian administration. He terms it, probably for the first time, self-government [last two words in English] throughout the territory Israel will vacate in the Gaza Strip, Judaea, and Samaria. A self-government that will serve as a comprehensive base for the Palestinians to realize their political rights to the full extent. That is how Baker puts it. Does this not actually mean an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel?

[Peres] Look, there are 2 stages to the initiative we published. The first stage states that Israel will retain control in 3 spheres: security issues, foreign affairs, and the Jewish settlements. It was stated clearly, on the other hand, that the Arab residents of the territories, the Palestinians, would be given the opportunity of running their daily lives. That is, except for those 3 spheres. I would not just read the headline. I am not sure that the difference is so great on this matter.

As to the second stage, we must wait and see if Jordan might possibly reenter the picture. I keep on thinking that a cardinal mistake was made when we did not endorse the London agreement. As a result of this, Jordan withdrew from the picture. Today we are hopping on one leg, while before we had the chance to walk on two. But all this can wait until the second stage. As for the first stage, we expressly offered the Palestinians the possibility of handling their own affairs, except for the three fields I mentioned.

[Mardor] Mr Peres, do you see only a change of tone in Baker's speech, or perhaps also a change in policy or positions by the United States?

[Peres] The truth of the matter is that this is not the first time that authorized representatives of the United States have expressed themselves in such a manner. I think that some of Baker's statements were slightly sharper. The actual content should not surprise us, and I am a little sorry that in the beginning authorized people in Israel created the impression that America embraced all of Israel's views, and gave wholehearted support—as Mr Arens put it—to our position. I thought this was, let us say, a slightly over-optimistic estimate of the U.S. position.

[Friedman] Do you think that the United States under Bush and Baker will try to throw its full weight into furthering the process and the accords according to its own viewpoint, even if this involves issuing a dictate to Israel. That is the way some people, for instance Minister Mordekhay Gur, interpret Baker's statements.

[Peres] Dictates? No, I do not think so. Dictates are issued in war. In peace one strives for understanding. The Americans will state their opinion, and we will express ours. We will also debate things with them, just as there will certainly be a discussion between the United States and the Palestinians. We know that the Americans are holding a dialogue with the PLO. Thus, an argument will begin, positions will be advanced, and the distances between the various positions will have to be bridged.

[Friedman] Mr Peres, thank you.

Knesset Reacts to Statement

TA2305182989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 May 89

[Excerpts] James Baker's comments have been sharply criticized by politicians on the right. Left-wing Knesset members [MK's] have welcomed the secretary's statement. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin recording] MK Ge'ula Kohen of Tehiya called for more Jewish settlement throughout the territories as the appropriate response to Baker's statement. She said that America wants to see an Israeli withdrawal from the territories, and will then press for direct talks between Israel and the PLO. Kohen accused Baker with interfering in domestic Israeli politics. [passage omitted]

MK Ran Kohen from the Citizens Rights Movement agreed that Baker was intervening in Israeli politics, but welcomed the statements. He said Baker's speech will strengthen the peace process and encourage moderate Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Hayim Ramon, the chairman of the Labor Party Knesset caucus and the leading dove, said the new tone from Washington is a positive development, because it shows the true policy of the United States. [passage omitted] Ramon said that Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens will no longer be able to tell the public that the United States backs what he termed Likud's extreme policy. [end recording]

The Likud reacted to Baker's speech by accusing him of wanting Israel to change the situation in which she can defend itself into one in which she would be shrunk into the Green Line, on the basis of territories for peace. The party said strengthening the Jewish presence in the territories is a prerequisite for maintaining Israel's power, and is the policy of the government.

Thirty MK's who belong to the group calling itself the Eretz Yisra'el Front have said the government should reject Secretary Baker's statements. They said the secretary's remarks are an indication of the American desire to please the PLO. But, they said, such statements only serve to encourage international terrorism and violence in the Middle East.

Territory Residents 'May Pressure' PLO

TA2405112789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] The head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria, Brigadier General Shay 'Erez, met with several notables from the Ramallah area today. The Palestinians told 'Erez that the residents of the territories have not yet said their last word regarding the proffered elections, and that they may pressure the PLO to move toward some sort of solution.

Our correspondent Arye Gus learned that Brig Gen 'Erez held a separate meeting with 10 Ramallah personages today. The participants belonged to all elements currently active in Judaea and Samaria.

Cease-Fire Agreement With PLO Suggested

TA2205140189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 May 89 p 9

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "A Cease-Fire With the PLO"]

[Text] Israel is demanding that the territories calm down before elections are held there, claiming that otherwise free elections would not be possible. Israel wants the Palestinians to stop the uprising as a precondition for holding elections.

One would be very naive, or be deliberately ignoring reality, to believe that the residents of the territories can reach an agreement with us to stop the intifadah [uprising]. Although the initiative for the intifadah came from the residents of the territories, today there is no possibility of stopping it without PLO consent. PLO control over the territories is not total either. Thus, its agreement to stop the uprising does not automatically guarantee that the fundamentalist groups would agree.

In any event, calm cannot be attained without PLO involvement. An Israeli gesture, such as releasing detainees, would have a minute effect and might even be interpreted as a sign of weakness unless a prior agreement with the PLO is reached that the newly released do not join the uprising. It is hard to conceive of a situation in which the PLO stays outside the political process, as Israel is demanding, while agreeing to stop the intifadah.

What the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the defense establishment failed to achieve by force during the past 18 months cannot be obtained from the Palestinians without them being substantially rewarded. The intifadah today is the wave carrying the PLO and the Palestinians, granting them last year's victories, beginning with U.S. recognition of the PLO and ending with the Jordanian disengagement from the West Bank.

The Palestinians suspect that the aim of Shamir and Rabin's political plan is to stop the intifadah using a method that has not been tried before. That is why without a clear guarantee from Washington that the PLO will join the political process sometime in the future, there is no chance of calm being obtained through Palestinian free will.

This fact can, of course, be ignored, as Israel is doing—but reality cannot. The dialogue between the United States and the PLO continues. The parties do not discuss the weather. They deal with political issues and the territories, and it can be assumed that Washington will do everything in its power to prevent the tiny crack opened by the Israeli Government with its plan from closing.

Another option is to circumvent the intifadah during the first stage while implementing pacifying measures in other spheres. This experiment could be conducted in a

different location even before the elections in the territories. The most suitable place is on the Lebanese border. A cease-fire was already in force between Israel and the PLO on the Lebanese border in 1981. It was achieved through U.S. mediation and pressure, as well as Saudi Arabian involvement.

The PLO attempted to uphold the agreement along the border but tried to outwit Israel at the time not only by using the cease-fire to fortify its artillery infrastructure in Lebanon (although this was not expressly forbidden by the cease-fire agreement), but primarily by claiming the right to operate against Israel across other borders, and, of course, overseas.

Israel also regretted being forced to come to an agreement with the PLO, albeit an indirect one, and looked for an excuse to free itself from this obligation. A cease-fire today on the Lebanese border can serve as an important test, both for the PLO and the Soviet Union. 'Arafat will have to prove that he is indeed in control of the PLO and that he can uphold any agreement achieved. This has never been the PLO's strong point. The PLO has broken dozens of agreements over the years with myriad bodies in Lebanon, with the Syrians, and with Jordan and Egypt.

To maintain a cease-fire agreement on the Lebanese border, 'Arafat will have to prevent all the PLO organizations, including George Habash's Popular Front and Hawatimah's Democratic Front, from breaking the cease-fire. If he cannot pull this off, it will prove that he does not actually represent the PLO, rather only Fatah. If he does succeed in imposing his authority, it would constitute a promising beginning to the end of the PLO's armed struggle against Israel.

A cease-fire on the Lebanese border can also serve as an important test for the Soviet Union. Instead of being able to content itself with mere declarations for the need for peace, it would have to persuade Damascus to order the Palestinian groups under Syrian sponsorship not to disrupt the cease-fire on the Lebanese-Israeli border. These groups include the extremist Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and Ahmad Jibril organizations, which do not belong to 'Arafat's PLO and that operate from within Syrian territory with the assistance of the Syrian Government. This would be the first substantial move by Moscow to spur on the peace process in the region.

This will be no easy test for the PLO, as it may be dragged into internal fighting and a serious disagreement with its partner in Lebanon: the Hizballah. Al-Asad will also not want 'Arafat to succeed in implementing an agreement with Israel that Al-Asad has no say in. Despite all this, the PLO desires this cease-fire in order to achieve indirectly the legitimization that comes with being a party to practical developments in the region. This is exactly what Israel would like to deny the PLO, even if it means a continuation of PLO operations on the Lebanese border while the intifadah is still in progress.

In the event of such a cease-fire, what Israel will be expected to do is to stop its preemptive actions, such as the bombing of Palestinian targets in Lebanon. But there will no longer be any reason for such preemptive moves if the PLO does indeed manage to uphold the cease-fire.

The United States does not reject the concept of a cease-fire on the Lebanese border—with the indirect involvement of a Soviet Union compelled to exert pressure on Syria—out of hand. They are just not sure that this is the right moment to push Israel and the PLO into each other's arms. However, anyone who talks about the need for steps designed to build mutual trust between Israel and the Palestinians cannot count only on the possibility of elections being held in the territories someday. These elections will never take place if the situation continues to deteriorate. The reopening of a mosque closed several weeks before cannot serve as an example of a confidence-building step. Neither can the release of a few dozen prisoners.

While the political process in the territories progresses in small steps, it is necessary quickly to adopt large-scale measures in the sphere of mutual trust. Hatred and fanaticism are growing as the intifadah continues. If these steps cannot currently be implemented during the uprising in the territories, they should be started at the Lebanese border.

Peres' Flaws as Finance Minister Examined

TA2105133189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 May 89 p 9

[Commentary by Avraham Tal: "His Heart Is Not in It"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] When Shim'on Peres assumed his duties as finance minister, many people believed that a new economic era was about to commence. After Nisim, whose policy was marked by restraint and control, an era of initiative and momentum was supposed to begin. After all, in all those years it was Peres who for all to hear advocated economic growth; therefore, who else but he could do everything possible to realize the declarations and give the economy renewed momentum?

And what has in fact happened? The impression is that since he contrived to obtain approval for aid to kibbutzim, Peres has lost all interest in the economy. He has put his deputy in charge of the Finance Ministry, and has turned to issues truly close to his heart. He travels abroad as if he were still the foreign minister, and makes political declarations as if he were still the prime minister.

We are left wondering whether we have a full-time finance minister—and if we do, what are his intentions? Does he intend to persist in his passive stance, in the hope that the measures enacted in January 1989 will suffice to perform the required change? Or does he indeed intend to present additional initiatives to give his declared policy some practical backing and the necessary push?

There is a lot that needs to be done. A finance minister whose heart, and not just his body, is at the economy's steering wheel must now ascertain that the state budget does not exceed the framework (practically, this would mean another round of cuts, which Peres seems to fear greatly); use all his authority to accelerate the execution of the structural reform plan prepared by the Budget Branch; give favorable consideration to the reduction of direct taxes at all levels not later than this year (which will require another budget cut even more urgently); signal plainly to the exporters that they are still the economy's top priority; and give an energetic push to the important, though far from being exhausted, effort to sell state assets (which can facilitate the job of tax reduction). And this is probably not the full list.

In the present complex and delicate position of the Israeli economy, we cannot afford a part-time finance minister whose heart is not in the matters of which he is in charge. If Shim'on Peres is incapable of identifying with his tasks, will he kindly relieve himself of the unpleasantness and make way for a full-time finance minister?

Settlement in Territories Said Growing

TA2005055189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 May 89 p B3

[Article by Nadav Shragay: "The Numbers Speak for Themselves"]

[Excerpts] Some 2 years ago, Miron Benvenisti [former deputy mayor of Jerusalem who researched the Arab problem] managed to annoy Rabbi Levinger and his friends when he stated that the ideological settlement movement of Gush Emunim had almost exhausted itself. The thousands of Israelis swarming at that period toward villas and the quality of life near Tel Aviv and Jerusalem beyond the Green Line just underscored this statement.

The pioneers of Gush Emunim, the trailblazers of the settlement drive in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, who settled deep within the territory, received the additions to the "five minutes from Kefar Sava" populace with mixed feelings. They were happy to see that their settlement endeavor was beginning to embody a national and popular pattern, but they expressed worry over the relatively small number of settlers in the inner parts of the territory and the future fate of these places.

Today, after 18 months of the intifadah [uprising], the Gush Emunim members can smile. Not only that, in comparison to previous years, almost no one has left the area and that this and last year the settlements continued expanding and growing by several thousand annually, but also for the first time in several years, a change has been noted in the trend pointed at by Benvenisti. The relative number of "ideological settlers" increases, and the "good-life" seekers are still coming in, though in smaller figures, despite the intifadah. In absolute figures, in comparison with the 3 years before the intifadah, fewer new settlers have joined the settlements in the past 2 years. This could be attributed to the intifadah. It could, on the other hand, be attributed to the decrease in construction in the past several years. In the current settling season, a slight increase is again expected.

Here are some data: At the end of 1986, some 85 percent of the Jews in the West Bank lived in the extensive regions of the Dan District and Jerusalem. At that time, Benvenisti, who presented this finding, determined the boundaries of the metropolitan areas by the time it took to travel from the place of residence to the destination, usually the place of work of the residents. According to a survey conducted by the Construction and Housing Ministry at the time, the potential settlers of the settlements beyond the Green Line were prepared to add 15 minutes to the travel time needed for them to get to work compared to their previous place of residence. The limit of the travel time in the Dan District was set at 45 minutes, and in Jerusalem at only 30 minutes.

Today, under the influence of the intifadah, it is doubtful whether these definitions apply. Those who seek the clear air and cheap housing have radicalized their political positions in view of the incidents. In certain instances, they have even adopted more extreme positions than those of the Gush Emunim people. It was the "good-life" settlers who first initiated the retaliatory activities in reaction to attacks on the roads, on them, and on their property.

Today, there are 800 to 1,000 housing units in different stages of construction throughout the West Bank, says Uri Ari'el, the secretary of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. 'Amos Unger, the director general of the Construction and Housing Ministry, talks of 960 people who want mortgages for houses in the occupied territories for the 1988-1989 housing season. The conclusion: an estimated addition of about 4,000 souls from the outside, besides the natural increase of the settlers, which is estimated at about 2,300 souls. Today 78,000 Jews live in the territories (the data of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza). About 74,000 (according to Benvenisti's calculations), the decisive majority of the recipients of mortgages of which the Construction and Housing Ministry prides itself, settle in metropolitan centers. Only a minority goes deep within the territories, to a settlement such as Elon More, for example, but this minority grew this year compared to previous ones. The definition of "good-life" settlers is no longer accurate, either. Those who settle at Ginnot Shomron today do so despite the intifadah and security concerns. There must be then a grain of ideology in today's transition to this dangerous quality of life.

Data of the Construction and Housing Ministry indicate that there is no decline in the number of those who ask for mortgages in the territories compared to previous years. On the contrary perhaps: In 1985, 916 mortgages were given; in 1986, 943; in 1987, 963; and in 1988,

1004. There are no figures for this year as yet, but the figure of mortgage recipients quoted for the 1988-1989 fiscal year is 960. [passage omitted]

The ministry's budget this year does not include funds for the eight new settlements agreed upon by the Alignment and the Likud in the last coalition agreement. Zoref (Gush 'Ezyon), and Talmon (the Binyamin District) have recently been settled with interim financing by the local councils and Amana (Gush Emunim's settlement movement), on the assumption that the 35 million shekels "stuck" in the Knesset Finance Committee will be approved sooner or later.

Incidentally, the Construction and Housing Ministry is not directly involved in building in the territories. Companies such as Marlez, Remet, Ashdar, and Shikun Upituah, as well as private building contractors and public housing companies are engaged in construction there. The ministry's involvement amounts to programmatic planning, allocation of land, development of building areas, infrastructure, public institutions, interim funding, and a commitment to purchase some of the apartments. The purchase commitment arrangement safeguards the building contractors from getting stuck with a stock of unsold apartments. Unger refuses to specify the sums involved. According to the ministry's spokesman, he does not want to attract fire from both right and left. In previous years, the estimated annual budget of the Construction and Housing Ministry for direct expenses involved in the building of housing units stood at about $100 million (the Judaea and Samaria lexicon, 1987). The assessment is that the figure this year too is similar.

The continued increase in the number of settlers, large as it may be, cannot tell the future. The average period of time needed for the building of a housing unit is approximately 2 years. Most of the new settlers over the last 2 years decided to move into the West Bank upon the start of construction, 2 or 3 years ago, in the pre-intifadah era. Nevertheless, only a small minority canceled its plans as a result of this era. Hundreds of settlers live today in Zoref, Talmon, Har Berakha, and other sites affiliated with Amana, under difficult conditions that are reminiscent of the "days of the Sabastiyah's" [reference to early settlement days in the West Bank] (tents and caravans). These, in contrast with the mortgage recipients, arrived at the West Bank at the height of the intifadah, perhaps because of it.

The mortgage recipients group forms part of the larger circle of the Eretz Yisra'el faithful that today, of all times, feels a duty to materialize its commitment to its ideology. As a result, the ideological settlements have grown by a relatively high percent, although their weight in the overall figure of settlers in the territories is still small, because the decisive majority went to metropolitan settlements.

Another factor that may affect the pace of populating the existing settlements is the political process and the direction in which the government's elections plan will develop. The plan may increase the flow of "ideological settlers" who will seek to set faits accomplis in the area and to reduce, simultaneously and considerably, the number of the new "good-life" settlers.

Mitzna' on Operation Against West Bank Hamas

TA2305174489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is acting against the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] movement in Judaea and Samaria and has detained several of its leaders. This was divulged by the commander of the Central Command. General 'Amram Mitzna' told our correspondent Moti Amir that IDF units in Judaea and Samaria have recently detained dozens of suspects in wide-scale IDF operations:

[Begin recording] [Mitzna'] In the recent past we gathered intelligence and studied in-depth different aspects relating to various activities; we exerted much effort in trying to apprehend suspects. In various modes of activity—sophisticated and secretive activity, activity by large units and elite units—over the past several weeks we indeed succeeded in catching those whom we wanted to apprehend. In this, too, our control in the territory is being judged; moreover, we are thus enabling the majority of the population to live normally by neutralizing instigators, leaders, and those who use violence.

[Amir] I understand that last night the IDF initiated such activity successfully in two villages here in Samaria.

[Mitzna'] There are operations every night; some of them we reveal to the public, some we do not. There is a variety of activities. Last night in one of the villages we apprehended five people for whom we had been searching a long time. You must understand that we are investing a lot of effort in such operations.

[Amir] Following the arrests of Hamas people in the Gaza Strip, is there any activity against extremist Hamas people in Judaea and Samaria?

[Mitzna'] In Judaea and Samaria this organization is less active and significant than in the Gaza Strip. Here too, however, we are operating against this organization by detaining some of its leaders, as well as by the use of other methods to deal with other bodies. Only recently we detained several of its leaders. [end recording]

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

11 Hurt in Gaza, West Bank

TA2305202189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] According to reports from Gaza hospitals, nine people were wounded today from soldiers' shots; Nabulus reports speak of two wounded. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating these reports.

The Civilian Administration today demolished seven buildings that were illegally built in the villages of Dhahiriya, Dura and Bani Na'im in the Hebron district. The IDF imposed a curfew on the city of Janin to prevent disturbances following the death of the former Janin mayor. The man died of a heart attack. The curfew continues in the town of 'Anabta and the village of Dayr Ballut. The curfew also continues in the Al-Burayj, Al-Mughazi, and Al-Nusayrat refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.

Settlers Protest at Village

TA2405045889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] In Samaria last night, settlers from Sha'are Tiqva demonstrated at the nearby Arab village of Khirbat 'Azzun al-'Atmah after a firebomb was thrown at the car of a woman from the settlement from Sha'are Tiqva. A Voice of Israel reporter says a rock-throwing incident developed between the settlers and the Arab villagers. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] arrived at the site to remove the settlers away. One soldier was hit in the head by a rock. The settlers say they are certain that the villagers are responsible for the throwing of the firebomb.

Also last night, a man from the town of Ari'el was slightly injured in the eye by glass when a rock shattered the windshield of his car near the village of Jamma'in.

There was another rock-throwing incident near Mashah, where Israeli troops caught one of the rock throwers.

Near Qalandiyah, the car of a Bet-El resident was stoned, but there were no casualties or damage.

Most Gaza Curfews Lifted

TA2405061489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Laborers from the Gaza Strip streamed to work inside the Green Line. Al-Nusayrat is the only refugee camp still under curfew in the Gaza Strip. This follows the lifting of curfews on the Al-Burayj and Al-Mughazi refugee camps.

Shots Fired at IDF Outpost

TA2405092589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 May 89

[Excerpt] Several gunshots were fired at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outpost in Bethlehem this morning. The security forces commenced searching the area.

Our correspondent Arye Gus points out that three shots were fired at a police patrol car in the same area 2 days ago. The police car was struck by a bullet. [passage omitted]

'Activists' Arrested in Raids

TA2405113289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 24 May 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Military sources say the army arrested dozens of Palestinians in overnight raids on villages in the West Bank. The raids were said to be part of a crackdown resumed last week to capture activists suspected of throwing stones and petrol bombs at Israeli motorists and army patrols.

Commentary Anticipates 'Hot, Bloody Summer'

TA2305143089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 May 89 p B1

[Commentary by Uri Nir: "In Anticipation of a Lebanese Summer"]

[Text] A hot and bloody summer can be expected in the territories. All the conditions are ripe for a serious escalation in the level of mutual violence. In fact, we can already discern the beginning of the new stage in the uprising, one which is beginning to resemble the Algerian revolution or the Lebanese chaos.

All the elements involved in the conflict in the territories—the insurgents and those who are repressing them, the Arab inhabitants and the Israeli citizens—have now entered a new stage of escalation in acts of mutual violence. The political obduracy of the two sides is being translated into nervousness and brutal activism, and mutual acts of revenge are constantly broadening the circle of protest, defiance, the burdensome attempts at repression, as well as the mutual desire for swift solutions.

The authorities have already introduced the "heavy artillery" in the form of collective punishment, the kind which has always been disputed among government circles: In other words, forbidding large numbers of people from entering Israel, prolonged curfews as a means of exerting pressure for its own sake, as well as significant changes planned in the legal status of the inhabitants of the territories (the right of appeal to the High Court of Justice, removing administrative and legal hindrances to deportation procedures, and so forth). At the same time, the soldiers are becoming more trigger-happy. Lethal shooting at those who erect roadblocks, for example, is now becoming a common and legitimate phenomenon. Only last weekend seven Palestinians were killed while dispersing disturbances in the territories, six of them in the Gaza Strip.

The settlers, for their part, are organizing in open groups for brutal acts of revenge against the Palestinian population in reaction to every attack against their vehicles.

Settlers in the Hebron area are reacting to any attack on their vehicles by mass raids on Arab neighborhoods in Hebron, smashing car and house windows, burning cars and vandalizing agricultural growth.

Early last week, following an incident in which an Israeli car was stoned near the Qiryat Arba' junction, more than 100 (!) settlers in dozens of cars departed for a series of acts of vandalism in Hebron, with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] looking on with one eye open and one closed.

One can discern a considerable escalation in the level of armed acts of terror on the part of the rebels against Palestinians who offer their services to the Israeli security authorities; there is also a rise in the level of daring shown by Palestinian youths in frontal attacks against soldiers and civilians. At the same time there is an obvious rise in the power and influence of the Muslim zealots, such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the fundamentalist "Islamic jihad." The ambassadors of the Palestinian public, who often hold meetings with diplomats in East Jerusalem, are gradually beginning to look like ridiculous clowns with their talk of a "white revolution." These people are extremely concerned about this development. There is an impression that the uprising's leadership is no longer directing events, but rather limping behind its escalating pace.

The Israeli authorities are continuing to meet these processes with an inconsistent policy of vacillating acts of strangulation and concessions which only increases the frustration and uncertainty among the Palestinian population. The heads of the security establishment are walking a tightrope between wanting to mollify the extreme right-wing politicians, and their own desire to "prevent a situation in which the Palestinians have nothing to lose."

Last week a very senior IDF officer told me confidentially that the IDF is avoiding friction with rioting settlers because of the inherent potential political explosiveness. No officer has ever dared say such things in the past.

The Palestinians in the territories are now speaking outright of the need to escalate the struggle. Political considerations and feelings of revenge are leading them to the conclusion that this is the only way to revive the uprising and to exert more pressure on Israel. A well-known IDF saying has it that "What you cannot obtain with force you can accomplish with more force." It was scary to hear the very same remarks made by a Palestinian leader in the West Bank last weekend, one of those who reflects and molds public opinion in the area in which he lives. "Many people nowadays are speaking about killing Israeli soldiers as acts of revenge. The elimination of the Israeli soldier north of the Gaza Strip is construed by us as an exemplary act of courage."

After 18 months of popular uprising, the Israeli Government still fails to recognize the determination of the Palestinians and the extent to which the uprising has taken root in their souls and norms of social behavior. Israelis apparently still do not understand how much the Palestinians are willing to sacrifice in this struggle and their fear of repeating the failure of the rebellion in the late 1930's. Therefore, even if the objective of the present pressure (and the threats of additional pressure) on the inhabitants are achieved and the uprising is indeed somewhat stifled, the accumulating frustration and hostility will bring about a rebirth of the hostility, and much more sharply.

The political plan offered by the Israeli Government to the Palestinians, as it stands today, is totally unacceptable to the broad consensus of the Palestinian public. Not only because it fails to address their nationalist aspirations, but also because the great majority of the Palestinians have no faith in the Israeli authorities. The attempt to force the initiative on the Palestinian public will only make the plan and those behind it more distasteful to them and will bring about extreme hostility.

Firearms Use in Uprising 'No Surprise'

TA2205120589 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 May 89 p A14

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "Firearms in Hebron Hills"]

[Text] The bloody clash in the Hebron Hills that resulted in the death of Sergeant Yitzhaq Rave; leaflet No 40 of the Unified National Command of the Uprising that urged that an Israeli soldier or settler be killed in reprisal for every Palestinian's death; and 'Arafat's declaration that he has reached the end of his rope in limiting uprising activity to stones only—all these came as no surprise.

In the intifadah [uprising], as in every uprising that continues without attaining its goals, it was possible to predict that an escalation in violence would take place. The escalation is a fact whether one accepts the chief of staff's opinion that the Hebron Hills skirmish was a turning point—the introduction of the use of firearms—or embraces the view of defense establishment members refuting the chief of staff's opinion. This view argues that the squad that encountered the soldiers had not intended to embark on a confrontation with them, only to assert the squad's authority on the Bayt Awla villagers, and to take action against those aiding Israel.

No definitions or explanations can alter the basic fact that it was possible to predict that the longer thousands of recruited Palestinians continued darting about towns and villages in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in order to impose the strike committees' authority, the more extreme their actions and the fiercer the race between the desperate groups seeking an outlet for their frustration would become. These are the dynamics of the uprising. The leaders knew how to start one, but will be never able to foresee its end.

It did not matter to Sergeant Yitzhaq Ro'e, who was shot dead in the Hebron Hills by the squad's gunfire, whether the terrorists were acting on the orders of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] or of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. Those who are toying with the nuance in a bid to salvage

their "conception" that 'Arafat has abandoned the path of terror are in for a disappointment. The reaction of 'Arafat's deputy, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], to the Hebron Hills incident undermines the conception maintaining that the PLO is becoming more moderate. Abu Iyad praised the terrorists' confrontation with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, defining it as "self-defense." Abu Iyad sees the armed clash as entirely legitimate, because the PLO never abandoned the principle of armed struggle against Israel.

To be precise, both 'Arafat in Baghdad and Abu Iyad in Tunis noted that the PLO decision to abstain from using firearms in the intifadah remains in effect. These declarations of the PLO heads, however, did not stem from softheartedness—as though they have suddenly found violence abhorrent—but mainly from the awareness that an open military confrontation between the IDF and the Palestinian strike groups would put an end to the intifadah. Even after undertaking not to use firearms, however, Abu Iyad is incapable of condemning his rival Abu Musa, who controls armed squads, one of which clashed with the IDF in Hebron Hills. Abu Iyad and 'Arafat would have preferred to abstain from using firearms, but since they fear losing their influence over the uprising's youths, they cannot leave the stage open to rival Palestinian organizations. 'Arafat knows that by staying away from firearms he has scored points in the international arena. He finds it difficult to give these achievements up. On the other hand, he does not wish to end up losing in the Arab arena; therefore, he is looking for formulas that will legitimize violent activities, without defining them as terror.

The argument between the chief of staff and members of the defense establishment about whether the Hebron Hills clash is part of the intifadah is superfluous. The intifadah has not assumed its final shape yet; it is subject to constant change. In the dynamics of an uprising, in the end the radicals' revolutionary fervor dictates the moves of the majority.

'Arafat is not eager to confront the IDF, and there are two reasons for that: He fears he may lose the sympathy of the West; and—the main reason—he is concerned about the outcome. But Abu Musa, Jibril, and even Habash and Hawatimah are breathing down his neck; he therefore bargains with the Americans in a bid to get authority for certain acts of "armed struggle." His messenger, Dr Nabil Sha'th, even explained in the United States that the term terror does not apply to Palestinian military attacks on Israeli military targets. At present, the intifadah leadership is offering the seal of legitimacy to the murder of Israeli settlers; tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow, it may justify even the murder of Israeli civilians, under the pretext that every civilian is a potential reservist.

The radicalization in the Palestinian ranks is a direct result of the intifadah's protracted duration. Since it was not nipped in the bud, it became a political factor likely to interfere with any arrangement. The attempt to make progress along political lines also contains the danger of escalated violence. The danger is twofold: First, on the part of terrorist organizations following Syria, which fears the possibility of U.S. mediation between Israel and 'Arafat; second, on the part of 'Arafat, who is attempting to turn the intifadah into a tool for political blackmail. The intifadah leadership's leaflet and the lethal clash in Hebron Hills indicate the direction.

Paper Calls For 'Solutions' From Arab Summit
JN2405064289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 May 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Historic challenge"]

[Text] An undefinable euphoria spreads all over the Arab skies everytime the Arab heads of state gather for a summit, extraordinary or otherwise. There is no difference today. The Arab masses at large are looking expectantly to Casablanca with high hopes that the gathering there will come up with practical moves towards addressing some of the crucial issues that face the Arabs. It is indeed a hope against hope that one summit of Arab leaders, with different viewpoints and positions on various issues, would be able to come up with solutions to problems that have plagued the Arab World and summits for decades; but the marked differences this time are very clear and simple and make the gathering a make-it-or-break-it affair so vital to the future of the Arabs:

If the summit fails to move towards realising the mechanism in the horizon to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict—that is, a two-state solution of the Palestinian problem—and continues bickering over accepting realities, then doomed indeed is the prospect of restoring just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, simply because such failure will only strengthen Israel's hands. This will in turn further complicate and undo whatever has been achieved with the switch to moderation by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and deliver a new weapon to hardliners in the Arab world.

If the summit fails to draw from past experiences in Lebanon and opts for peripheral remedies and not a permanent cure to the country's civil strife through fundamental reforms and through eliminating all foreign military presence without undermining Arab interests there, gone are all hopes to put an end to the 15-year-old bloodbath among Arab brothers. Granted that the hostility and animosity built over the years could not be rooted out overnight, there is no mistaking the silent appeal of Lebanese leaders, whether from the right or left, for a formula that will save all faces and ease into place a system devoid of injustice and political domination.

If the summit fails to be guided by the fundamental principle that the Arab League was established for the purpose of bringing together all Arab states and unifying Arab positions on external challenges and not for isolating one or more, then there is very little sense in the very concept behind the existence of the league itself.

If the summit repeats past mistakes and allows inter-Arab differences to assume the centre-stage and throw a spanner in the works, the question that looms is: Why the shared common Arab identity of 22 member states of the Arab League if such identity only helps to exacerbate crises and undermine prospects for a better future for the Arab people at large?

If the summit fails to rise above the individual interests of Arab states and to serve the higher interests of the Arabs as a community in the international scene it will serve to consolidate the oft-heard argument that the Arabs "can never get their act together" and thus help advance the divide-and-rule strategy of foreign powers with vested interests.

Above all, if the summit fails to pave the foundations for concrete action towards implementing its (hopefully) creative resolutions, then it should be warned that avenues are open for individual Arab states to pursue their own interests and adopt action accordingly.

In short, if the Arab leaders fail in Casablanca to grasp the opportunity for a historic turn in collective Arab action, they will only be failing their own people and their hopes for a better life in security and stability.

Columnist on Baker's Statements, U.S. Policy
JN2405101189 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 May 89 p 18

["An Issue and an Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "Baker's Statements Are a Message to the Arab Summit"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Baker's statements before the Zionist lobby in the United States were also addressed to Israel and the Casablanca summit. He said: "Israel has to abandon its plans to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as its dream to establish Greater Israel. Israel should also hold a dialogue with the Palestinians to reach a just political settlement and to recognize the Palestinians' political rights." He also said: "The Arabs should abandon the idea of destroying Israel bit by bit, should speak in one voice to the West, the East, and the whole world, and also should differentiate between Zionism and racism."

Baker's statements would have drawn little attention if he had not stressed that they represent the final U.S. position and if he had not chosen this particular time for his statements. These facts have prompted us to examine carefully the statements' meanings and implications. I believe that observers know that Baker made his statements on purpose on the eve of the convening of the emergency Arab summit in Casablanca so that the Arab leaders in particular would hear them.

This summit has more influence as a result of Egypt's participation and Egypt's readiness to work to restore joint Arab action in accordance with a political and strategic security policy and to revive the Collective Arab Defense Pact.

The summit was convened after the realistic Palestinian and Arab peace initiative was stalemated by Israel's obstinacy and the hesitant and vague U.S. position and after the moderate Arabs felt that the Reagan and the Bush administrations had abandoned them, had shown

relative support for Shamir's plan, and had refused to pressure Israel into accepting a just peace. This has forced the moderate Arabs to search for alternatives. As a result, they may take new positions unacceptable to the United States and the West, because any failure of moderation will give an opportunity to radical, intransigent, or even extreme circles to affect the Palestinian and Arab public opinion and to launch alternatives to the moderates' proposals.

This fact is well known to the Bush-Baker administration, which is now trying to avoid or foil it. Therefore, it has sent a message through Baker to Israel and the Casablanca summit at the same time. Baker addressed this message, knowing very well that the Arabs do not intend to destroy Israel in one piece at a time or in any other manner. Baker also knows very well that the Arabs are eager to speak in one voice to the West, the East, the whole world, and even among themselves and that they want a just peace through a peaceful settlement.

If all the Arab and international efforts to bring about a just and an honorable peace fail, the Arabs will be entitled to search for alternatives. They have offered as much as they can to achieve peace. Regarding the idea of Zionism as a form of racism, the peoples and countries of the world should believe it before the Arabs. It was the United Nations that termed "Zionism a racist movement that must be opposed and destroyed."

As long as the Palestinians and the Arabs agree on an Israeli state beside a Palestinian state in Palestine, it is the duty of Israel and Zionism itself to prove that there is a difference between Zionism and racism. This is not the duty of the Arabs, who are being exposed to the ugliest forms of repression, terrorism, and annihilation in the occupied Arab territories and to various forms of aggression, provocation, blackmail, and threats in neighboring Arab countries.

However, the Arab summit will discuss several topics on the peace process. We have Shamir's plan, we have the Palestinian peace initiative, we have the intifadah [uprising] and Israeli's repressive policy to end it, and we have the positive changes in the international arena in favor of the peace process, especially the important change in the Bush-Baker administration. The Arab leaders can adopt resolutions and positions, which will lead to a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

We believe that Baker's message to the summit, which implies an important and advanced change in the U.S. position, deserves the Arab leaders' attention, especially if the Bush administration is capable of convincing Israel of this new U.S. position's implications and meanings or of pressuring Israel into accepting it.

Soviet Friendship Delegation Arrives 23 May

JN2305194689 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Amman, 23 May (PETRA)—A Soviet friendship delegation headed by Nikolay Tsakh, deputy minister of the Ministry of the USSR Maritime Fleet and vice president of the Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Society, arrived in Amman this afternoon.

During the visit of several days, the delegation will meet with a number of senior officials and sign a cooperation agreement between the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society and the Union of Soviet Friendship Societies. It will also visit cultural sites in Jordan.

The delegation was received by Senator Bahjat al-Talhuni and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

Details of Donations to 'Uprising' Revealed

JN2405065189 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 May 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Council of Ministers has decided to exempt donations made in support of the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] from income tax, according to Dr Mamduh al-'Abbadi, president of the Jordanian Medical Association and member of a national committee charged with raising funds for the Palestinian uprising.

Al-'Abbadi was quoted by AL-DUSTUR daily as saying that the committee has so far collected JD [Jordanian dinars] 1,778,221 in donations from various organisations, citizens and companies in Jordan and that it had spent JD 1,373,028 on families affected by Israeli atrocities in the occupied territories.

A total of JD 1,000 is paid to each family that loses a martyr in the course of the intifadah, and JD 200 to the family of each injured person Al-'Abbadi said.

He said, the committee has paid JD 126,000 to support Palestinian hospitals, JD 34,000 to voluntary societies and other sums for the purchase of medicine and medical equipment.

The government's decision to exempt these donations from income tax is bound to encourage various organisations and citizens to make more contributions to their brothers under occupation who are struggling for freedom, Al-'Abbadi stressed.

The government's decision, he added will no doubt encourage the committee to double its efforts to raise more contributions.

Donating to the Palestinian uprising and to bolster the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule is a national duty, and it is hoped that all citizens and various organisations will increase their donations, Al-'Abbadi said.

The committee which is chaired by Mr 'Abd al-Majid Shuman was established in February 1988 to raise funds for the Palestinian cause.

Its 12 members represent various economic and social organisations and professional and trade unions in Jordan.

New Power Station To Be Inaugurated 25 May

JN2405102589 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 May 89 p 1

[By Sulayman al-Barmawi]

[Text] Amman—Eng Muhammad Sa'id 'Arafah, director general of the Jordan Electricity Authority, has announced that on the 43d anniversary of the Kingdom's independence, which falls tomorrow, the first power station for generating electricity by burning natural gas will be inaugurated in the Al-Rishah area in Al-Mafraq Governorate.

Eng 'Arafah also explained that in light of the current efforts to find local resources of energy for industrial and household uses, the Natural Resources Authoritiy is drilling to explore natural gas in the Al-Rishah area 380 km east of the capital near the Iraqi border.

Columnist Calls For Press 'Immunities'

JN2305104289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 May 89 p 2

["Petition" column by Muhammad Dawudiyah: "Is the Press Negligent or Wronged?"]

[Text] The "press is negligent." That is what we hear nowadays from people who try to brand a long experiment with negligence, complacently blaming the editorial bodies of the newspapers for this failure.

I am not going to refute such accusations because only God is perfect. After all, the issue a relative one, and what may be good or excellent to some could be negligence to others.

However, asking the press to replace the people and the various democratic institutions like Parliament, the judiciary, the public prosecution, the censors, the auditing office, or the grievances office will be burdening it with more than it could handle.

It is incorrect to say that the press should solve or unravel society's problems and various errors, and it is unjust to project these ills on the press. The press is always ready to play its role—and only its role—when the various national, democratic institutions and bodies extend the necessary protection and support. This is because the press' bones are brittle. Indeed, we have often said privately that the press has no spirit, or that its spirit is easy to catch.

The press has been governed by a publications law that makes any paper liable to closure by an immune, irrevocable decision that cannot be contested in a court of law. This has compelled newspaper owners and investors to be overly careful for fear of withdrawal of a papers' license or closure. This has reached the point where newspapers have failed to perform their duty. Now the newspapers' chief editors, managing editors, directors, and chairmen are liable to dismissal, replacement, or bankruptcy by a stroke of the pen, placing them under impossible pressures.

Moreover, newspaper writers are liable to expulsion or prevention from writing by similar decisions and strokes of the pen. This compels these writers as well as editors, managing editors, chairmen, directors, to be overly careful and wary, avoiding the minefields to save their jobs and brittle pens from destruction.

Major companies, financial institutions, and banks are regarded as the newspapers' primary sustainers. These companies and institutions are always ready to stop advertising in the newspapers if the latter discuss their errors with the aim of correcting them.

Moreover, the absence of a clear information policy makes many trivial things into taboos and sacred cows that cannot be discussed or criticized. There is a monopoly on information and a lack of regulations to give reporters access to information instead of merely allowing them to watch how this information is being hidden from the public.

The formula that governs the performance of reporters and writers is very delicate. Because of this formula, producing an article and a chief editor's approving its publication become reckless adventures, leaps in the dark, and tightrope walks over a bottomless abyss.

This is the real situation. For the press to carry out its role satisfactorily, it should be given certain immunities to restore its strength. The path for this aim is well known; it has been trod by advanced nations in which the press has become a forum, a channel, and a satisfactory and sufficient means of communication.

Fadlallah Cited on Summit, Vatican Letter

NC2405071689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah contends that the current Arab initiative and the activities undertaken by international circles only indicate an effort to avert a complete collapse in Lebanon, rather than an endeavor to find a solution to the Lebanese problem. He added: We will have to live with this for a long time.

In an interview, his eminence expressed his belief that Lebanon is certain to experience several political and security tremors which may make it as vulnerable as a leaf blown about by the wind. However, he emphasized, Lebanon will not collapse, no matter how strong the winds may blow. Fadlallah asserted that talk of Cypriotization or the possible collapse of the concept of coexistance is mere political dramatization designed to intimidate the people in Lebanon.

Touching on the Arab summit, his eminence Sayyid Fadlallah said: We have to wait until it adopts resolutions, before we can know in which direction the wind will blow. He added, however, that we expect the U.S.-controlled international will to resolve the Lebanese issue to diminish.

On his assessment of the Vatican's latest position, his eminence expressed his fear that this step by the Vatican might be complementary to the first step in which the Vatican exonerated the Jews from the crime of killing Christ. In this case, Israel would be absolved from the crime of destroying Lebanon, he said.

Responding to a question, his eminence said: Though we are unable to avert wide-scale Israeli interference beyond the Lebanese borders to Jordan and Syria, we do not believe that the political phase through which the Middle East crisis is passing gives room for such a devastation. He further explained that such a devastation would confuse the U.S. plans, particularly those which aim to subjugate the Arabs and to resolve the Israeli problem at the expense of the Palestinians.

'Awn May 'Fight' if Summit Fails

NC2305170589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has answered a question by REUTER and VISNEWS news agencies concerning his reaction if the Arab summit fails. He said: I will take the necessary measures to guarantee the independence of Lebanon. I may have to fight, but if there is another recourse, I will certainly endorse it. 'Awn said that resistance has not started yet, adding: We have no choice. It is either victory or death.

Seeks UN-Arab Deployment

NC2305200189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has said that should the Arab summit fail, he would take the necessary measures to secure Lebanon's independence. Speaking to REUTER and VISNEWS news agencies, he said he would also be willing to discuss the Lebanese problem directly with Syria in a summit meeting.

'Awn said that it would be a very good thing if Lebanon is not represented in the Arab summit, for this would allow the Arabs to discuss the Lebanese problems frankly. 'Awn said that the role of the UN forces in the south should be expanded to cover all the country's territories. He called for Arab countries to send a unit to join these forces and to operate under UN command.

Soviet Envoy Cited on Summit, Lebanese Situation

NC2405103789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Following his meeting with former Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni today, Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha said: One must wait for 2 or 3 days to learn the outcome of the Arab summit. Then we can clearly analyze the Lebanese situation. Kolotusha recalled Soviet President Gorbachev's message to King Hassan II of Morocco in which he welcomed the convening of the Arab summit as it would contribute to finding solutions to the Middle East problem, the Lebanese crisis, and the Iraq-Iran conflict.

The Soviet ambassador denied knowing that a Soviet envoy is leaving for Damascus soon.

He noted that Moscow is seeking to solve Lebanon's crisis before the Middle East problem. This is because the crisis in Lebanon has Lebanese roots, and solutions can be found before an international conference on the Middle East is convened. However, Kolotusha said, I imagine that the matters are interlinked. The situation in Lebanon affects the area and vice versa.

Al-Husayni is now meeting with Ambassador Hasan Shash, head of the Egyptian interests office in Lebanon.

Syrians Arrest Over 50 Youths in West Beirut

NC2305171389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 23 May 89

[Excerpts] Our radio has learned that on the night of 21 May, Major 'Ali Husni of the Syrian occupation army was admitted to Al-Mazlum hospital in Tripoli with serious wounds from a bomb explosion which targeted a Syrian center in Abu Samra. Five other Syrian personnel were injured in the blast. [passage omitted]

BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY has cited reliable West Beirut sources as saying that Syrian forces have been carrying out nightly sweeps in several Beirut neighborhoods in which they arrested over 50 young men in Al-Zaydaniyah, 'A'ishah Bakkar, and Al-Tariq al-Jadidah [in West Beirut] on charges of shouting anti-Syrian slogans at the funeral of Mufti Hasan Khalid. Several Beirut notables have intervened with Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib to secure the release of the detainees, but their effots have been unsuccessful.

Shaykh Khalid Forces Claim Anti-Syrian Attacks

NC2105050889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] A spokesman for the Shaykh Hasan Khalid forces has contacted Radio Free Lebanon to announce that a unit of these forces detonated an explosive charge outside a Syrian intelligence center near the British bank in Al-Hamra' in West Beirut at 2133 hours today. The spokesman also announced that another explosive charge was detonated at 2125, near a Syrian occupation post in the Saqiyat al-Janzir area.

Earlier, the spokesman for the Shaykh Hasan Khalid forces had declared that a group belonging to these forces used hand grenades to attack a Syrian occupation forces position near the arts college of the Lebanese University in Corniche al-Mazra'ah in West Beirut at 2055 hours.

Israeli, Militia Activities in South Detailed

NC2305113589 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] A joint Lahd-Israeli force crossed the occupied strip at 0300 today and advanced 4 km north of the strip as far as Mimis and 'Ayn Qinya. Press reports said that the force, which was made up of two tanks, three personnel carriers, two trucks, a jeep, and approximately 70 soldiers, launched a wide-scale search operation. The force also arrested five farmers, who were heading to work, and released them later before withdrawing from the area at 0830 hours.

Yesterday, the town of Jazzin was the scene of confrontation between the residents and a Lahd militia force, which had entered the town. The confrontation took place after the residents refused to obey the commander's order enlisting them in the militia and forcing those between 17 and 30 years of age to compulsary conscription.

The militia stormed the Mar Antonius parish of the town, throwing hand grenades to terrify the inhabitants, who had staged a sit-in in the church to demonstrate their resentment. A number of citizens were wounded in the ensuing clashes between the inhabitants and a militia force. A number of those who staged the sit-in strike in the church, including Antoine Jorji Karam and Marfan Mar'i, were wounded. A number of shops were sealed with red tape. The situation in Jazzin remains tense as the town's key figures have called for an open strike to protest the dragging of the town residents into the inferno of the battles.

Israel Extends Telephone Cable to Sscurity Strip

NC2305185989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The Israeli army has begun linking the telephone network of the security strip with that of the Hebrew state. A Lebanese police source said that a telephone cable is being extended between Hasbayya and the Jewish Metulla settlement in upper Galilee.

Jubayl, Army Mountain Positions Shelled 24 May

NC2405060389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] A number of shells fell on the Jubayl Coast between 0500 and 0600 today. Meanwhile, Lebanese Army positions in Qal'at al-Hisn came under artillery and rocket fire from Syrian positions on the opposite side between 1900 and 1930 yesterday.

Syrian Planes Overfly Mountain, Al-Biqa'

NC2405103389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Syrian military aircraft conducted mid-altitude sorties over the mountain and the Al-Biqa' valley this morning.

It is worth noting that this is the third time Syrian military aircraft have overflown Lebanon and the first time such sorties were not conducted over Lebanese Army positions on the mountain.

Khaddam Discusses PLO, Egypt, Arab Summit
PM2305110689 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 20 May 89 p 11

[Pietro Veronese dispatch on news conference given by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus: "'Arafat is Making Too Many Concessions to Israel"]

[Excerpt] Damascus—[Passage omitted] "There are only two people in Syria who can speak freely. They are President Hafiz al-Asad and Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam," a Syrian official said when escorting a group of journalists into Khaddam's office in Damascus a few days ago. The vice president is a man who does not smile and has an expressionless look. He is 59 years old, the same age as 'Arafat, although his impassive expression makes him look 10 years younger.

In his first reply, Khaddam immediately indicated that Syria is prepared to accept Egypt's return to the Arab fold. "We certainly welcome Egypt's return. The suspension of relations between the two governments in recent years has not damaged the special relationship which exists between our two countries. Moreover, Egyptian President Mubarak is not personally responsible for the Camp David agreements" (the peace between Egypt and Israel which was signed by Anwar al-Sadat, Mubarak's predecessor, and which caused Egypt's exclusion from the Arab League—LA REPUBBLICA editor's note).

[Reporter] What will Syria say about the PLO in Casablanca? 'Arafat has sought and obtained dialogue with the United States—its representatives in Tunisia have already had two meetings with the U.S. ambassador.

[Khaddam] Dialogue is not an end, it is a means. We are looking at the results. If the result benefits the Palestinian cause, secures the liberation of the occupied territories, the right to self-determination and to return, and the right to establish a state on Palestinian territory, we will be the first to welcome it.

But the start of dialogue between the PLO and the Americans had a price: recognition of Israel. It is a very expensive admission ticket. We have dialogue with the U.S. Administration too, but we were not presented with any such preconditions.

[Reporter] In short, does Syria condemn 'Arafat's strategy?

[Khaddam] No, we are in favor of the principle of dialogue. But we want it without having to pay a price; if there had to be a price, it should at least have been reciprocal. What has 'Arafat obtained in exchange for recognizing Israel?

[Reporter] So far, he has obtained marked diplomatic successes in the West. The latest was being received by French President Mitterrand at the Elysee 20 days ago.

[Khaddam] Does being received by presidents warrant the price of recognizing Israel? The great welcomes given to 'Arafat are not meant to benefit the Palestinian cause, but to help Western circles that are playing Israel's game.

I ask you: What has 'Arafat ultimately obtained? He has abandoned the Palestinians' fundamental charter ('Arafat described it as "obsolete" during his visit to Paris—LA REPUBBLICA editor's note); he has recognized Israel. What has Israel abandoned? Just suppose that 'Arafat succeeds in meeting with the Israeli Government, what cards will he still have in his hand?

[Reporter] There has been talk of a future meeting between 'Arafat's envoys and a Syrian delegation to discuss your disagreements.

[Khaddam] This is a two-sided question. On the one hand there are the Palestinian factions which oppose 'Arafat's policy. They have a leading position among Palestinians in Syria and almost all of Lebanon. They are also present in other Arab countries.

Second, there is a difference of opinion between Syria and the PLO on how to achieve a political solution to the Palestinian question. Even if there is a possibility of finding a political common denominator between us and the PLO, we will still have to solve the internal problems among various Palestinian groups. [passage omitted]

Station Views Israeli 'Terrorism,' Shamir Plan
JN2005145789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 May 89

[Station Commentary]

[Text] The Israeli uproar about Shamir's plan constitutes a clear attempt to circumvent world opinion, which understands the racist and terrorist nature of the Zionist entity and has increased its support for Arab rights and reaffirmed the need to achieve a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace in the region. The threats of the terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin, the enemy war minister, to escalate the oppressive measures are now being directly implemented. This exposes the enemy's true intentions as far as Shamir's plan is concerned. The plan aims to gain time and distract world opinion with empty words until the intifadah [uprising] is ended through terrorist and oppressive measures.

It is clear that there is an unprecedented Israeli unanimity on the need to end the intifadah quickly, because it has begun to threaten the Zionist entity's fragile structure, creating difficult problems on all levels—economic, military, and political. This unanimity is best represented by the fact that the terrorist Rabin, who belongs to the Labor Party, is implementing the schemes of the Likud and the coalition government to contain and abort the intifadah.

Yesterday, the occupied Arab territories witnessed a dangerous escalation in murder and tyranny on the pretext that Arab citizens had used firearms. This escalation gives a threatening indication about the enemy's intentions, namely resorting to a war of mass annihilation against Arab citizens which may reach the extreme of expelling Arabs from their lands, villages, and cities. This is the option adopted by the forces of Zionist extremism inside the Zionist Knesset, in which they have the majority.

In the early days of the Zionist entity, Israel committed the ugliest massacres—such as Kafr Qasim, Dayr Yasin, and Qibyah. Israel continues daily to prove that it does not hesitate to use this savage method to implement its expansionist Judaization schemes and to reject all plans which admit the possibility of withdrawing from the occupied territories, in which Israel finds only part of what it calls Greater Israel with its borders allegedly derived from the Torah.

The bloody and brutal war that Israel has launched against the masses of the intifadah, confirms, once again, the futility of betting on any change in the Israeli position. Israel rejects peace and will always seeks to impose surrender on the Arabs unless they build up their power and ability to confront the schemes of liquidation and deter the adventurism and aggression of the enemy's leaders, who are saturated with the spirit of bloody terrorism.

The deeds of the Palestinian people and their sacrifices confirm that the intifadah is advancing according to expectations. All the Zionist hatred and all the maneuvers and conspiracies will not affect the resolve of the Palestinian people. The Palestinians have declared a revolution that will continue until they achieve their legitimate objectives and aspirations of liberating their land from the Zionist invaders and establishing their independent state on their national soil. The people seek and shed blood for the only achievable thing that can survive no matter how long the enemies of the people continue to commit crimes and no matter how oppressive their measures.

Afghanistan

Grand Assembly Elections Held 17 May

LD2005062989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0432 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 19, BAKHTAR—Elections to the Loya Jirgah [Grand Assembly], to be held shortly in Kabul, were held on Wednesday [17 May] throughout the country in an atmosphere of genuine democracy and unity. The election of people's representatives in all provinces including that in Nangarhar Province ended with success.

The war-stricken people of Jalalabad City, Nangarhar Province, also went to the election ward and elected in an atmosphere of unity ten representatives to be delegated to Kabul Loya Jirga.

At election ceremony, General Manokay Mangal, the governor of Nangarhar Province and clergymen and influentials spoke about the sigificance of the Loya Jirgah and to be shortly held in Kabul.

Najibullah's Decree on Members

LD1905215689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 May 89

[Decree issued by President Najibullah on the appointment of members of the Grand Assembly; read by announcer; all names below ministerial level as received]

[Text] The presidential decree on the appointment of political social and scientific personalities and theologians as members of the Grand Assembly:

In accordance with Paragraph 9, Article 66, of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], the following political, social and scientific personalities and theologians are appointed as member of the Grand Assembly:
Esteemed Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, deputy head of the Supreme Council for the National Defense of the Homeland [SCDH] and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Afghan Council of Ministers;
Esteemed Lt Gen Muhammad Rafi', vice president and member of the SCDH;
Esteemed 'Abdul Hamid Mohtat, vice president;
Esteemed Dr 'Abdul Wahid Sorabi, vice president;
Esteemed Lt Gen Nazar Muhammad, member of the SCDH;
Esteemed Lt Gen Muhammad 'Asef Delawar; member of the SCDH;
Esteemed Lt Gen Muhammad Afzal Lodin, member of the SCDH;
Esteemed Lt Gen 'Abdul Qadir Agah, memoer of the SCDH;
Esteemed Maj Gen 'Abdul Haq 'Ulomi, secretary of the SCDH;
Esteemed Brig Gen Muhammad Eshaq Tokhi, SCDH;
Esteemed Hamdollah (Gran), member of the Central Election Commission;
Esteemed Mawlawi Nasrullah Hanafi, deputy chairman of the Islamic Party and member of the Central Election Comission;
Esteemed Ahmad Nabi, head of the administrative department of the Councils Affairs of the Presidency and secretary of the Central Elections Commission;
Esteemed 'Abdul Rahim Rostam, hero of the RA;
Esteemed Brig Gen Mustafa, hero of the RA;
Esteemed Salim Gargen, hero of the RA;
Esteemed Shaykh Awaz Sadiqi, deputy Islamic affairs minister;
Esteemed Haji Muhammad Samkanov, chairman of Central Council of Tribes and Nationalities of the Presidency;
Esteemed Mawlawi Sehebol Haq, chairman of the Islamic Consultative Council of the Presidency;
Esteemed Azizodin Wakili Popalzay;
Esteemed Qari Mohammad Nabi, prayer leader of Pol-e Khesti mosque [Kabul];
Esteemed Gul Dad, chairman of Academy of Science;
Esteemed Professor Mir Huseyn Shah, lecturer of the Department of Literature at Kabul University;
Esteemed Fazel Ahmad Sa'idi, commander of the tribal regiment of Herat;
Esteemed retired Brig Gen Khan Muhammad Zadran;
Esteemed retired Brig Gen Gul Muhammad Mangal;
Esteemed Brig Gen Dr Sohayla Sidiq;
Esteemed 'Abdul Karim Shadan, head of the Special Court of National Security;
Esteemed Muhammad Sadiq Selani, head of the Islamic Studies University;
Esteemed Jagander Sing, a businessman from Shahzada market;
Esteemed Karim Chand, head of plastic factory;
Esteemed Muhammad Hakim, head of Chamber of Commerce;
Esteemed Basir 'Omarzay, businessman;
Esteemed Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq;
Esteemed Muhammad Hashim Kashifi, ex-head of the sixth war of the National Front;
Esteemed Mulla Merajan son of 'Abdul Karim, representative of Mulla Nasim from Helmand Province;
Esteemed Kamaluddin, representative of Pasha-e nationality from Laghman Province;
Esteemed Toran Tahir son of Nasrullah, commander of Jamiat-e Islami in Ghorat;
Esteemed 'Abdul 'Azim, son of 'Abdul Samad, commander of Jamiat-e Islami in Ghorat;
Esteemed Gholam Rasol, son of Muhammad 'Azim, commander of the Islamic Party;
Esteemed Hasan, commander of Jamiat-e Islami in Badghis Province;
Esteemed 'Ali, commander of Jamiat-e Islami party in Badghis Province;
Esteemed Muhammad Sadiq Rohey, member of the Academy of Science of the Republic of Afghanistan;
Esteemed Haji Nezamuddin, businessman;
Esteemed Dr Muhammad Aman, ex-finance minister.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

Grand Assembly Session Opens

LD2205082489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 20 BAKHTAR—With the recitation of a few verses of Koran and speech of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, the Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly) of the people of Afghanistan, as the highest manifestation of the will of the people, about politico-military situation of the country as well as the peaceful settlement of the issues around Afghanistan under the state of emergency was opened here today.

At the outset President Najibullah delivering a short speech officially opened work of the Loya Jirgah and announced the legal authority of the elected deputies to the Loya Jirgah and according to the Article 68 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan 'Abdul Rahim Hatif was assigned and introduced as acting-president of the Loya Jirgah.

Based on Article 68 of the Constitution, vice-presidents, members of National Assembly, members of the Council of Ministers, supreme judge, vice-presidents of Supreme Court, members of General Attorney, the president and members of the Council of Constitution, members of the Executive Committee of the National Front, governors, Kabul mayor, a number of distinguished political, scientific, social and religious personalities who have been elected to the membership of National Assembly as a result of the proposal of Presidium of the National Front and approval of the president, the elected deputies representing of various strata of the country, representatives of the Armed Forces and the Afghan women, whose total number reaches 732 persons participated in the work of the Loya Jirgah.

Likewise, 384 persons including the leading state authorities, political parties, social organisations, Armed Forces, independent political, and social figures, clergymen, tribal elders, businessmen, intellectuals and some women as well as a number of the internal armed commanders and representatives of some armed commanders inside the country were invited to the Loya Jirgah.

In addition, ambassadors, charge d'affaires of the friendly countries in Kabul, as well as domestic and foreign journalists participated in today's session of the Loya Jirgah.

At the beginning of the work of the first session of the Loya Jirgah, agenda and procedure of the Loya Jirgah were proposed and unanimously approved by the members of the Loya Jirgah. [passage as received]

Later on 'Abdul Rahim Hatif asked President Najibullah to deliver his speech on the occasion.

After that President Najibullah delivered his comprehensive speech in connection to the politico-military situation of the country, duties and necessity of holding the Loya Jirgah, measures adopted by the State of the Republic of Afghanistan for reaching peace in the country, gains of the historic Loya Jirgah of December 1987 and national reconciliation. The president put forward some new, constructive and peaceful proposals for political settlement of the present situation in the country.

Later on Dr. Mahmud Habibi, speaker of the senate, Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, speaker of the house of representatives, Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defence, some elected deputies to the Loya Jirgah, Mawlawi Nasrullah Hanifi, vice-chairman of Islamic Party of Afghanistan, senator Safar Muhammad Khaddam, chairman of Ansarullah Union, and 'Abdul Hakim Tawana, chairman of Peasants Justice Party of Afghanistan delivered their speeches on the occasion.

The speakers strongly denounced the aggressions of Pakistani militarists against the Republic of Afghanistan and stressed on continuation of the state of emergency in the country for deterrence of the foreign aggression in the country. The speakers welcomed the speech of President Najibullah, his peace proposals and expressed their full cooperation for peaceful settlement of the politico-military situation of the country.

They also invited the commanders inside the country to respond positively to the call of the people of Afghanistan and stop war and fratricide in the country. The speakers also stressed if Pakistan and other foreign countries continue their aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan, the people of this country will bravely go [word indistinct] the independence, territorial integrity as well as national sovereignty of Afghanistan.

The speakers at the Loya Jirgah strongly condemned the evil plots of Pakistani militarists on annexation of Afghanistan to Pakistan, the council and the so-called Rawalpindi-made government of the seven alliance based in Peshawar. [words indistinct] messages of the particpants of the Loya Jirgah addressed to the people of Afghanistan and personnel of the Armed Forces of the country were read out and approved unanimously. Work of the Loya Jirgah continues.

Senate Speaker Cited on Work

LD2005062189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0420 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 19, BAKHTAR—Dwelling on the historical significance of Loya Jirgah, Grand Assembly, in the course of history, Dr. Mahmud Habibi, speaker of the Upper House of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan in a television interview described the main topics which will be considered by the third Loya Jirgah after the April revolution to be held shortly in Kabul.

One of the Jirgah's main topics will be the question of Pakistan's increasing intervention in Afghanistan's domestic affairs, the Pakistan militarists' encroachments on the national sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the neighbouring country, the Senate's speaker said.

Under these grave circumstances, the Loya Jirgah will study and make decisions on several issues such as consideration of the state of emergency and the assessment of the government's major and effective measures for the implementation and consolidation of the policy of national reconciliation since the convocation of last Loya Jirgah. In addition, Loya Jirgah, he emphasized, will reveal the desperate efforts made by Pakistan and the reaction of the region in order to aggravate the situation in Afghanistan as well as the assertions made by president of the Republic of Pakistan on the annexation of Afghanistan with Pakistan under the cover of forming a confederation.

The recognition of Durand Line by the so-called Council of Rawalpindi and the assessment of the successes scored by the Afghan Armed Forces in the campaign against foreign interventions will constitute the other focal points to be discussed by the Loya Jirgah, stressed Dr. Mahmud Habibi.

Hatif Chairs Assembly

LD2105084989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 20, BAKHTAR—The council of representatives of [word indistinct] Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly) held its session in the Delkosha Palace, [words indistinct] by 'Abdul Rahim Hatif, vice president of the Republic of Afghanistan and chairman of Central Electoral Commission of Loya Jirgah on Friday.

At the outset of the session 'Abdul Rahim Hatif in his speech said that Afghans have always tackled their problems through the Loya Jirgah which has a long history in the country.

Najibullah's Concluding Speech

LD2105212289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1650 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, esteemed representatives of Afghanistan's Grand Assembly, dear friends and guests. We are at the end of the work of our country's greatest event this year, that is the successful conclusion of the work of the Grand Assembly. Your active participation in the work of the Grand Assembly, which was accompanied with a great patriotic feeling and a great national responsibility before the present and future fate of the people of Afghanistan, manifested once again at its highest level the iron will and unshakable unity of Afghanistan's people to defend our territorial integrity, national sovereignty, independence, peace, tranquillity, and traditions and beliefs, and to foil aggression. Allow me to express my congratulations and appreciation to your active participation in the work of the Grand Assembly and for the expression of views and speeches which in fact enriched the contents of the Grand Assembly. [applause]

Your thoughts, proposals, and views, which were inspired by the urgent need and demands of our people and society and were expressed in the Grand Assembly in a free and democratic climate, are considered the sum of the total wisdom of all of Afghanistan's people, nationalities, tribes and clans, and classes and stratas of society. Naturally, they will be considered in the execution of state power.

The Grand Assembly once again showed the great national unity of all Afghans, the unshakable unity of all fraternal nationalities, tribes, clans, and residents of the various localities of our united country and social and political organizations and parties in foiling interference and aggression and in defending our people, territorial integrity, national sovereignty, and independence.

The Grand Assembly assessed, with efficiency and wisdom, the military-political situation of the country and the situation around Afghanistan, which are both tense as a result of aggression and interference from the soil of Pakistan, and with a feeling of responsibility before our homeland and compatriots, for the sake of the national reconciliation policy and to seek ways toward a political solution, it made the necessary decisions. Once again it invited those forces who are standing against each other to peace and compromise. It has asked the leaders of the extremist formations not to continue to implement the aims of the ancient enemies of the Afghan people and to continue the hostile war plans of the enemy. It is with good reason that the Grand Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan, by an accurate assessment of the needs and demands of the Afghan people, named the national reconciliation policy as the only main aim of the State of the Republic of Afghanistan for the sake of further compromise and further flexibility.

The Grand Assembly has turned to the armed opposition commanders inside the country and invited them to end war and bloodshed, to ensure peace and national compromise. It has promised the armed opposition commanders that if they accept the cease-fire and the end of war the state will share state power with the armed opposition groups based on their ability and influence to protect the security of their regions. The state will even take into account their sovereignty in their relevant regions, and give them all concessions given to the units and companies of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan including military rank, weapons, salary, and other privileges of authority, and ensure the ground for their active participation in the affairs of land ownership, industry, transport, and will even compromise up to the limit of granting self-control in some regions of the country.

The Grand Assembly has paid serious attention to the role of the armed opposition commanders inside the country, who have carried the main burden of the war on their shoulders for the last 10 years, unlike the leaders of the extremists formations who led a tranquil life in Pakistan, and stressed that they have a great role in ensuring nationwide peace. We are ready to assess their views, proposals, and plans without any preconditions, and reach a broad understanding.

I consider it my duty to address from this great tribune, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Jalaluddin Haqani, Mulla Nasim Akhundzada, Toran Esma'il, Basir Khalid, Mulla Naqeb, and Haji Latif from Qandahar; Sayyed Jagran, Mu'alem Farid, 'Abdul Haq, Qari Malak from Ghazni; and other armed opposition commanders and groups to play their worthy role in ending the war and in ensuring nationwide peace and participation in a broad-based government, and to begin work to reconstruct our war-torn country.

We also invite the former king, Muhammad Zahir Shah, to play his role in ensuring peace in the country, taking into account the existing objective political realities in Afghanistan as a political personality with experience and long service.

We announce again and again that the fate of the present and future generations of the country and the destiny of a nonaligned, free Afghanistan, with national sovereignty and with political and economic independence, cannot be solved by military means or armed confrontation. The only logical path is political, with the participation of all the forces who can guarantee the existence of our historic Afghanistan.

The Grand Assembly draws the attention of international organizations, governments, parliaments, world movements, and in general the people of the region and world to the cause of accelerating the process of ending war and ensuring peace in Afghanistan and fully implementing the Geneva accords. We hope they will play their worthy and humanitarian role in this regard.

Esteemed representatives of the Grand Assembly, we the participants of the Grand Assembly have the duty to convey to all compatriots the spirit and climate of the Grand Assembly and its historic decisons and to take part in implementing its decisions.

As the president of the Republic of Afghanistan, I consider it my duty to promise to this great assembly that all the duties that have been entrusted to the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan by the Grand Assembly in the national and international arena are on top of the list of duties of the state. We will not spare any effort to implement the decisions of the Grand Assembly, relying on almighty God and the assistance and help of the Afghan people. [applause]

We struggle for the path of truth and justice to ensure peace and tranquillity for Afghanistan's people. Almighty God, may He be glorified, is with us, and the Muslim people of Afghanistan are with us and we will inevitably be successful. Success comes from God. [applause]

Mujahidin Attack Post Near Kabul, Airport

BK2305154089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1529 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Islamabad, May 23 (AFP)—Mujahidin guerrillas killed six Afghan troops and captured 40 in an attack on a post near Kabul while a rebel rocket attack destroyed several aircraft at Kabul Airport, resistance sources said Tuesday [23 May].

The pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said the mujahidin destroyed 10 tanks and three armoured vehicles and captured two vehicles and 100 AK-47 assault rifles in the attack on the Sufiyan post near Kabul Friday.

The attack on the airport was carried out May 15. No information on casualties was available, ANA said.

An Afghan Army transport plane was shot down by mujahidin at the airport in northern Konduz Saturday, resistance sources said.

Fighting between mujahidin and government troops continued around the besieged eastern city of Jalalabad, ANA said, adding that 15 soldiers had defected to the guerrillas Friday.

The mujahidin launched a big offensive on Jalalabad in early March but poor coordination among guerrilla groups and heavy bombing by Afghan planes have kept the rebels a few kilometres (miles) from the garrison city.

Diplomatic sources here said hundreds of Afghan refugees were returning to Afghanistan from Pakistan every day, mostly to the southern provinces of Qandahar, Helmand and Zabol.

The inflow has increased to more than 100 families a day this month from 15 families a week in April, the sources said, adding that some Afghan estimates put the rate of return at 300 families a day.

Sources at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees confirmed the number of returning families was increasing.

The trend was mainly due to the relatively low level of fighting in Qandahar and neighbouring areas, weariness with camp life in Pakistan and a desire to return in time to plant fields, the sources said.

Some three million Afghan refugees have fled to Pakistan's North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan Province on the border with Afghanistan since the Afghan conflict began in late 1979.

20 May Military Situation Reported
LD2105085289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 20, BAKHTAR—An authorised military source said here that during the past 24 hours extremists supported by the Pakistani militia, armed Wahabi merceneries and heavy fires of the 11th and 18th Pakistani Divisions attacked city of Jalalabad, its outskirts and airport of that city. [sentence as received] Four civilians, and a member of the Armed Forces were killed and 7 others injured. Seven houses demolished. Units of the Jalalabad detachments in their counter attacks killed 153 enemies and wounded 81 others. Arms and ammunition of the enemy including 7 mules destroyed.

Extremists attacks on the Khowst grand district were repulsed. The attacks left 10 civilians killed and 5 others injured.

As a result of the artillery and air attacks of the Armed Forces 30 extremists, including 6 Wahabis, were killed and 81 others wounded.

During the operations of the contingents of the Armed Forces carried out in Qandahar, Herat, Konduz and Laghman Provinces 13 extremists were killed, 4 others wounded and another one arrested.

Large quanitities of arms and ammunition of the enemy fell at the hand of the Armed Forces as well.

Situations in other provinces of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] were reported as completely normal.

Mujahidin Commanders Meet in Peshawar 21 May
LD2105212689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the first round of talks between the Afghan Muslim mujahidin based in Iran and Pakistan were held in Peshawar, Pakistan yesterday with the participation of most of the mujahidin commanders. According to the report, in that round of talks discussions were held on creating greater unity among Afghan Muslim mujahidin and solving existing problems.

Bangladesh

Shanti Bahini Insurgents Kill 10 Hostages
BK2105062889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0555 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, May 21 (AFP)—Bangladesh's dominant insurgent group killed 10 people they had abducted in retaliation for reports of large-scale violence in local tribal villages, Army officials said Sunday.

Army and law enforcement officials here said the outlawed Shanti Bahini, or peace force, on Saturday shot dead 10 hostages they had abducted Friday along with about 90 others from the village of Thanchi in Bandarban District's Thanchi County.

They said two other hostages were wounded and left for dead by the insurgents.

Most of the victims were Bengali-speaking Muslims while one or two were Buddhist Chakma tribesmen whom the insurgents suspected of collaborating with the Bangladeshi Army or the Muslims who have settled in this southeastern region from India.

The officials said the tribal insurgents stormed the remote village, rounded up villagers and herded them across to the dense jungles where numerous rivers are obstructing search operations.

The killings occurred following reports that local Muslim settlers and Army personnel torched some 400 homes in nine tribal villages earlier this month and killed scores of Chakmas, triggering an exodus across the border into India.

The Dhaka government has denied tribespeople are leaving the area and has not confirmed the reports of the violence, which was reportedly sparked May 4 by the assassination of a Muslim official by the Shanti Bahini.

Military and paramilitary contingents continued a massive search operation in the rugged region for the rest of the kidnapped people, officials said, adding that the incident has sparked considerable tension among local residents.

The killings come one day after President Hussain Mohammad Ershad announced he was extending by almost a month a general amnesty for the Shanti Bahini to surrender and pave the way for elections in three tribal districts on June 25.

The April 22 amnesty was to expire Saturday but was extended after the Shanti Bahini virtually rejected the offer on the ground that it did not address the group's separatist campaign in the 13,000-square-kilometre (5,200-square-mile) region bordering India and Burma.

The Bahini are also campaigning for the expulsion of all Muslim settlers from the area, where the Buddhist Chakma are indigenous.

Local observers say elections to the three hill councils would be scuttled if violence continued in the region.

The Dhaka government recently signed an agreement with authorities of India's northeastern Tripura State for the return of 29,000 tribal refugees who have been

fleeing the hill tracts since the late 1970's because of alleged atrocities by the Muslim settlers in the area and Bangladeshi Army personnel.

General Amnesty Extended

BK2005130889 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The time limit of general amnesty has been extended in the Chittagong Hill Tracts until the 25th of next month. The president extended the time limit to provide opportunity to all the participants in the forthcoming elections to the local government parishad [council] of Rangamati, Bandarban, and Khagrachari Hill Districts. The president earlier announced the general amnesty on the 22d of last month during his visit to Khagrachari.

Spokesman Refutes Report on Chakma Leader's Arrest

BK2105155689 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] The government has denied Indian press reports that Chakma Raja [Chittagong tribal leader] Debashish Roy is under house arrest in Dhaka. A Foreign Office spokesman in Dhaka today described the report as baseless and a figment of imagination. The spokesman said Raja Debashish Roy is very much free and is carrying out his usual legal practice in the country.

Tribal Protest Demonstration in Dhaka Reported

BK2105155889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Hundreds of tribal students from the Chittagong Hill Tracts demonstrated in front of the Bangladesh Secretariat today to protest against what they called wanton massacre of innocent tribals in (Longuru) Upazila [subdivision] in the Rangamati Hill District earlier this month. About 300 tribal students took out a silent procession carrying placards in protest against the killings. They later submitted a memorandum to the government demanding a political settlement of the Chittagong Hill Tracts problems and withdrawal of non-tribals from the settlement.

Chinese Students Demonstrate in Dhaka

BK2305103589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1003 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Dhaka, May 23 (AFP)—Chinese students marched down the streets of this capital city Tuesday [23 May] to express solidarity with the pro-democracy students in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, police and witnesses said.

Protesters, both men and women, clad in colorful headbands and carrying banners, paraded in the first Chinese protest demonstration in Bangladesh to express their solidarity with pro-democracy protesters in China.

The demonstrators, mostly students from several colleges and Bangladeshi universities, also demanded the resignation of Chinese Premier Li Peng for imposing martial law in response to the month-long protests, the police said.

"Stand up for your rights," one poster said, while a boy unfurled a sign reading "Go home, Li Peng." The placards were written in several languages, including Bengali, Chinese and English, witnesses said.

The Chinese protesters marched from the Dhaka University campus to the government complex and finally staged a sit-in before the press club, where they refused to answer questions from reporters.

A small group of student activists gave a message to the Chinese Embassy here demanding Mr. Peng's resignation. They later said that Chinese students would boycott classes for a week as a symbol of protest.

The Dhaka government has been giving extensive coverage of the pro-democracy protest in Beijing on state-run television and radio, and it recently set up direct satellite links allowing live broadcast of the deployment of the Chinese Army and the appeals of the Beijing leaders to the students.

India

Media Hail Missile Launch, Criticize U.S.

BK2305105489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1033 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] New Delhi, May 23 (AFP)—Newspapers here hailed Tuesday the launch of India's maiden intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM) and said it would boost the country's deterrent capabilities.

Most dailies said the launch was significant because New Delhi's biggest neighbours China and Pakistan—with which India has fought a total of four wars—possessed, or were in the process of manufacturing, similar systems.

Editorials and commentators also flayed the United States for criticising Indian efforts to launch the missile, called Agni (fire), saying Washington was indulging in discrimination.

The 19-metre (62-foot) high, two-stage surface-to-surface Agni was test fired Monday from eastern India's coastal Chandipur region, 32 days after the first attempt to launch was called off because of technical snags.

A second try on May 1 was also called off for similar reasons.

THE TIMES OF INDIA described Agni's launch as "the biggest step forward in India's quest for a credible deterrent capability" since the 1974 explosion of a nuclear device in northwest India.

"The real success of such a capability is that it should never have to be used," it said. "It has to be achieved nevertheless. This is specially so with regard to missiles because of their proliferation in our neighbourhood."

The HINDUSTAN TIMES described Agni's blast-off as "an unqualified success," while the ECONOMIC TIMES said it "is an occasion for gratification."

THE HINDU newspaper noted that Agni—which has a range of up to 2,500 kilometres (1,560 miles)—had military overtones and, mentioning Pakistan and China by name, added that "the signals it sends out are undoubtedly of special significance."

Noted defence analyst K. Subrahmanyam said Agni was the first step in the country's attempt "to fill a vital gap in its security needs," and referred to the missile programmes of China and Pakistan. China, with which India fought a brief border war in 1962, also possesses IRBM's.

"Pakistan is said to have tested an unnamed missile capable of hitting Delhi and Bombay which puts it very near the IRBM category," Mr. Subrahmanyam said.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Monday that Agni would provide New Delhi with a non-nuclear option "with high precision at long ranges."

He added that the "technology proved in the Agni is deeply significant for evolving national security options."

An official statement released Monday echoed the prime minister's views, and added that Agni was "expected to provide such options to the country in facing an increasingly complex security environment."

Agni's launch attempts drew criticism from the U.S. Government, and moves were reportedly afoot in Washington to impose trade sanctions against India and block technology transfers if New Delhi went ahead with the test firing.

Newspapers Tuesday accused the United States of adopting double standards.

Washington, THE TIMES OF INDIA said, "has not said a word about the capability Israel demonstrated by testing its latest nuclear-capable missile and its bid... to export the technology to others."

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES praised the government for standing up to "overt and covert pressures" by the U.S., while the pro-Moscow PATRIOT newspaper criticised Washington for keeping quiet about Pakistani missile programmes.

"Washington's pressure on India is, therefore, meant to retain for a member of the U.S.-Pakistan-China strategic consensus, all advantages that nuclear weapons and missiles delivery systems give," the PATRIOT said.

New Delhi has said the launch was intended as a show of its technological capabilites and that it had no intention of mass-producing the missile.

India successfully test-fired a missile called Prithvi (Earth), with a range of 250 kilometres (155 miles), in February 1988.

But the country's civilian space programme suffered a major setback five months later when a missile, the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle, crashed into the Bay of Bengal 150 seconds after lift-off.

News reports after Agni's launch said that Indian scientists would begin work on production of an inter-continental ballistic missile with a range of more than 5,000 kilometres (3,125 miles).

Public Hails Launch

BK2305161889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] More reports of nation-wide acclaim of the scientists, engineers, technicians, and others who were associated with the launching of the [intermediate-range surface-to-surface missile] Agni yesterday has come in. The achievement has generated a feeling of confidence and happiness among the people in all walks of life. They consider the event as symbolizing the country's progress in advance research and indigenous technology. State governors, chief ministers, and others have hailed the launch and greeted the team of workers who made it possible.

Welcoming the launch, the Congress-I has described it as a matter of pride for all. In a statement the six general secretaries of the party, Mr V.N. Gadgil, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mrs Sheila Kaul, Mr K.N. Singh, Mr Oscar Fernandes, and Mr A.R. Mallu, and the treasurer, Mr Sitaram Kesari have said that, appropriately, this feat was achieved in the Nehru centenary year as it was Jawahar Lal Nehru who made self-reliance in scientific [as heard] temper the cardinal principles of the Congress ideology. They congratulated the prime minister and the scientists who worked under his leadership with dedication and determination to make this possible.

Some opposition parties have also congratulated the scientists for the achievement. Among them are the Communist Party of India, the Bhartiya Janata Party, Telugu Desam, and the Janata Dal. In a resolution passed at the conference of its office bearers in Bangalore today, the Janata Dal said the event heralds a new era in missile technology.

Commentary on Agni Launch

BK2305110589 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 23 May 89

[Science editor K.S. Jayaraman commentary]

[Text] India reached a major milestone in military missile development technology yesterday when it successfully test-fired its first intermediate-range ballistic missile [IRBM], Agni. The two-stage missile weighing 14 tons and about 19 meters tall took off from Defense Ministry's test range in Chandipur on the east coast of Orissa State in the early hours of the morning [22 May], ushering India into the select club of nations that have the capability to design and build such long-range missiles.

The IRBM is a result of about 6 years of work by scientists of the Defense Research Development Organization. Agni is the third missile to roll out of defense laboratories under the integrated guided missile development program, that has a budget of about $500 million. Trishul, a 12-kilometer-range surface-to-air missile was test flown in 1987. A year later India successfully tested Prithvi, a surface-to-surface missile having a range of about 250 kilometers. Agni is the most advanced in the family of missiles. Its first stage is solid propelled, and the second stage has twin engines powered by a storable liquid fuel. The missile is designed to deliver a 1-ton warhead at a target as far away as 2,500 kilometers within about 8 minutes. The missile is equipped with a strap-down inertial navigation system and an on-board computer to carry out the task of guidance and flight control.

Yesterday's launch was described by the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, as a test flight to prove the indigenously developed advanced missile technology. The Indian Government has not announced details of yesterday's test flights, except that the missile followed the predetermined flight path and impacted in the designated area in the Bay of Bengal. According to an official announcement, preliminary analyses of data indicated that the test flight fully met the mission's objectives. One of the mission's objectives was to evaluate the performance of an indigenously developed heat shield during the fiery reentry through the atmosphere. The heat shield that is meant to protect the warhead from intense heat is a key hardware in the defense delivery system. The heat shield was developed by the defense scientists quite some time ago and was being tested for the first time by Agni.

The successful test flight of Agni has demonstrated India's technological capability, but it cannot be interpreted as a signal that India wishes to become a regional superpower. While hailing the achievement, the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, emphasized that India is a nonviolent country and has no aggressive designs on anyone. The testing of Agni was part of India's continuing efforts to safeguard the country's independence and security by self-reliant means, he said. According to the prime minister, a great deal of misinformation and disinformation has been spread by interested quarters that the Indian missile would be used to carry a nuclear warhead. In a statement, Mr Gandhi made it clear that Agni is not a nuclear weapon system. It only gives us an option to deliver nonnuclear weapons with high precision at (?long) range, an option that is of great relevance to contemporary strategic doctrine, he said.

India detonated a nuclear device 15 years ago, but it set an example to the whole world by its refusal to convert this nuclear capability into nuclear weapons. It wishes to keep it that way, Mr Gandhi said, adding that India is passionately committed to peaceful coexistence. India firmly believes that Agni, while providing a limited deterrence, will in no way become a threat to regional peace. As one Indian defense analyst puts it: Agni, which has broken the big power monopoly, may be a major contribution to India's negotiating strength for advancing international peace and stability.

Official on Pakistan Minister's Kashmir Statement

BK1905125089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] India has made it clear that the only matter to be settled about the Jammu and Kashmir issue is the vacating of Pakistani-occupied territory. The foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, in an official statement issued in the Zimbabwe capital, Harare, today said that New Delhi's position that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India is well known. He was commenting upon the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's, speech at the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau meeting where he had—among other things—referred to the Jammu and Kashmir question.

The All India Radio Harare correspondent, Bhupal Indersaini, reports that India has decided not to exercise any right of reply at the bureau meeting on the Pakistan minister's statement, as its policy is not to bring up such questions at nonaligned forums.

Repatriation of Nationals From Singapore Ended

BK2405092189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] The repatriation of Indian nationals overstaying in Singapore was completed last night. Over 1,700 Indians have been sent back over the last fortnight. The new immigration law of Singapore, which came into force on the 1st of last month, provides for caning and imprisonment of foreign nationals overstaying without legal permits. Following negotiations between the Singapore Government and the Indian High Commission there, the deadline for Indian nationals was extended till last night. A spokesman of the high commission told our correspondent that efforts will be made to restrict the number of Indian job seekers in Singapore. The emigration process will be made stricter.

6 'Hardcore Terrorists' Killed in Punjab

BK2405041289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] In Punjab, six hardcore terrorists have been killed in separate encounters and nine arrested during raids since last night. Five hardcore terrorists were shot dead in an encounter with the security forces near village Mehanwana in Faridkot District. Three of them have been identified—Harbajan Singh, Nisant Singh, and Gurbachan Singh. In another encounter in Balachor area of Hoshiarpur District, a hardcore terrorist, Sukhdev Singh alias Sukha, was killed.

Elsewhere in the state, terrorists shot dead one person in the Cheherta area of Amritsar District last night.

Iran

Further on Khomeyni's Surgery, Recovery

Ahmad Khomeyni Interviewed

LD2305171989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] We have had a telephone contact with Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, in connection with the details of his eminence the imam's operation, as well as the latest opinion expressed by physicians regarding the imam's condition and the process of his recovery.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Greetings. Excuse me. We are calling from the news program of the Voice and Vision [of the Islamic Republic of Iran] to find out more about the statement issued by the Imam's Secretariat today. We were informed today that his excellency the imam underwent successful surgery. We would like to ask you to explain the reasons for the operation. could you please explain and inform the noble nation of Iran?

[Ahmad Khomeyni] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A few days ago some blood was observed in the imam's digestive system [as heard]. The attending physicians, after consultations among themselves, concluded that he needed an operation to get well quickly. They talked about that with his excellency the imam. He agreed and said: Do as you think best. After making necessary preparations, the operation was carried out this morning. Praise be to God, the physicians were very pleased with the success of the operation.

[Correspondent] Excuse me. Can you tell us about the imam's present condition and about the latest news on his recovery?

[Ahmad Khomeyni] His condition is very good, and there is no cause for worry. The people can rest assured. The operation went very well, praise be to God. His condition will improve in the future. As we must inform the people about all our affairs and hide nothing from them, we decided to tell people about that matter. After that news was broacast, numerous telephone calls from the Hezbollah people were received from all over the country, all of which showed the people's sincere affection and love for his eminence the imam. We thank all those people and other brothers and officials, as well as the physicians, nurses and all those involved. God willing, in the future we will continue to keep the people informed about this.

[Correspondent] God willing, with the hope for the imam's complete recovery, and with thanks to you for giving us your time. Good-bye.

[Ahmad Khomeyni] Good-bye. [end recording]

Khomeyni's Surgeon's Interviewed

LD2305193489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1700 GMT 23 May 89

[Interview with Dr Hassan 'Arefi and Dr Iraj Fazel, attending physicians to Ayatollah Khomeyni by an unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 23 May—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to all you listeners. As you were informed in today's news bulletin, his eminence the imam underwent surgery. We are with the physicians who carried out that operation today. First, I would like to ask Dr 'Arefi to explain the reasons behind that operation.

['Arefi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—this pulsating heart of our nation, this beloved one of the Iranian nation—had been feeling well, considering his age and his extensive activities. He had experienced no difficulty until a few days ago. When we were received by him a few days ago, he mentioned that he had bleeding in his digestive system. After he described his symptoms, we realized that he had bleeding in his digestive system. After various tests and examinations, we concluded that the digestive system's bleeding must be attended to carefully. But, as the amount of blood was minute, the ailment gave us enough time to consider it more carefully. After carrying out consultations with various physicians from various places with different specialities, we went to his eminence the imam, who readily agreed to an operation [words indistinct].

I would like to inform the dear listeners and viewers that his eminence the imam is perhaps one of history's exceptions with regard to his physical being and state of health. In each human we consider two factors: one, his age, as stated in his birth certificate [words indistinct], and the other is what we consider his physiological aspect, in other words, the amount of work and the activities he carries out. I must inform you that, for instance, wearing glasses is no illness. A person might need them or not. A few times opticians have examined the imam, and have been very surprised that the imam's

eyes are suffering from no weakness whatsoever, although he is 87 [figure as heard] years old. In other fields of physiology, such as kidney, liver, heart and digestive system, the imam has been and still is in exceptionally good shape.

As far as the problem in the digestive system is concerned, he informed us about that only a few days ago. We then acted very quickly [words indistinct] and presented him with our conclusions and opinions. Very quickly we reached the ideal result [words indistinct]. I now ask Dr Fazel to continue on this matter.

[Fazel] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With thanks. Dr 'Arefi provided you with some introductory remarks. After we were informed of the illness of his eminence the imam, we immediately took steps to discover the cause of his bleeding. Fortunately, this work was done in a short time, with the greatest speed, and with the cooperation of doctors who are experts in the field. After lengthy discussions and considering all factors, all the doctors came to the conclusion that the best way of curing this illness was to operate. It is clear that it was not an easy decision for us, and we spent hours and hours discussing it. However, when we were received by his eminence the imam to inform him of this and to ask for his permission, in complete simplicity he merely said graciously: Do what is required. Fortunately, we were not under pressure of time. There was time to make all the preparations in a satisfactory way and carry out the operation at a point when the conditions were ideal. The operation was set for today. Thanks be to God, this morning the operation on his eminence the imam was carried out. During the operation his condition was perfectly good. It is natural that we had some anxieties, but, thanks be to God, none of them came to pass. The operation was carried out in the best possible way and under very good and satisfactory conditions. After the operation the condition of the imam is very satisfactory.

God willing, with the good prayers of the lovers of the imam, the few post-operative days will also pass and the imam's shadow will continue to remain on our heads.

[Correspondent] Doctor, in view of the fact that you referred to (?treatment), once again I repeat and ask you, please tell us what is the latest report we can give to the people about the recovery of the imam?

[Fazel] I should say that, thanks be to God, the condition of the imam is at the moment very good. We have no reason to worry. His physiological condition, his heart condition, his kidney function, his blood pressure, pulse, everything is in a completely satisfactory condition and, God willing, it will continue to be so.

[Correspondent] You referred to the condition of the heart of his eminence the imam. I would like to ask Dr 'Arefi to offer more explanations on that topic.

['Arefi] I will speake briefly. Our dear people know that I am not a surgeon but a heart specialist. His eminence the imam has been very good as far as his heart, circulation, and internal ailments are concerned. This has been his condition during the long period of over 10 to 11 years which I have been at his service. He has had no problems in this regard. I said this earlier. The point I must make is that up until yesterday he performed his daily walks. He was in full health regarding his heart and internal conditions and other parts of his body. He continues to enjoy the same good health. Many years ago when we were in his service he had begun a regimen of walking three times a day, each walk lasting from 25 minutes to half an hour. This regimen was performed until yesterday. Last night he did his usual walk.

Therefore, as some people might ask about his heart condition, I must say, praise be to God, he is very good. I want to say again that for his age, as his age determined by his birth certificate, he is in exceptionally good condition. God willing, he will soon fully recover. He will again make an appearance at his residence and we will all be in his exalted presence again.

[Correspondent] God willing. Dear listeners, while hoping for recovery and longevity of his eminence the imam, I thank all the physicians who participated in the interview.

Khamene'i Issues Statement

LD2305173189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Following the improvement in Imam Khomeyni's condition, Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president, announced tonight:

Now that, thanks to God's blessings and kindness, his holiness the imam's operation has been performed successfully and that, thanks to God, his general condition is satisfactory, we bow our heads to God and offer our thanks with all our existence for the blessing which is the soundness of the throbbing heart of the ummah of Islam [Khomeyni].

For this reason and in order to give thanks for this great blessing, a gathering to offer thanks and prayers will be held beginning tomorrow at 1100 (0730 GMT) at the Imam Mosque.

Foundations Offer Prayers

LD2305174189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Martyrs Foundation and the 15th Khordad Foundation [5 June Foundation, an organization in charge of helping the war wounded and disabled] in a joint statement offered their thanks to God Almighty and thanked the doctors treating his eminence

the imam. They also called on the Muslim and martyr-nurturing Iranian nation to hold spiritual prayer meetings in mosques and religious premises and to beseech God Almighty for the complete health and recovery of the illustrious leader of the revolution. The text of the statement is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O God, praise to You who blessed our Islamic ummah with the realization and recognition of the August status of the rule of the jurisconsult and under the shadow of the prophet-like guidance and leadership of the esteemed imam and illustrious leader of the Islamic ummah, His Holiness the Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni who is the manifestation of Your limitless grace and bounty and the embodiment of sanctity, purity, steadfastness, and decisiveness of Your true prophets and imams. You led us from the darknesss of the satanic government [of the shah] to the light of the rule of the jurisconsult of God. Praise be to You, who with Your succor and assistance helped our revolution under difficult conditions. Praise be to You who on the anniversary of the greatest victory of the cohorts of Islam [the liberation of Khorramshahr] over the forces of Satan, and the liberation of the wronged and steadfast Khorramshahr, once again with the restoration of the health of the blessed imam You showered Your mercy upon the world of Islam and the oppressed of the world. O God, we most humbly beg at Your sacred threshold that for the sake of the elect at Your court and for the sake of the self-sacrifice of the martyrs and the steadfastness of their esteemed families, and for the sake of the purity and sincerity of the POW's, the disabled, the MIA's, and the Hezbollahi ummah, You will extend the blessed shadow of this pure tree of the jurisconsult over our heads until the revelation of the world-illuminating sun of the remnant of God [the hidden imam] may our lives be a sacrifice for him.

While expressing our thanks to the honorable doctors treating his holiness the imam, we ask the Muslim and noble Iranian nation, especially the esteemed families of martyrs, that in mosques and religious premises with their spiritual prayers they will beg for complete health and recovery of his holiness the imam of the ummah, the beloved Khomeyni.

[Signed] The Islamic Revolution Martyrs Foundation and 15th Khordad Foundation

Prayers Slated for Qom Mosque

LD2305180889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The Islamic Publicity Office and the council of Qom's prayer leaders have announced that tonight prayer ceremonies will be held for the health and longevity of Imam Khomeyni. The ceremonies will be held in the Upper Mosque of Her Eminence Ma'sumah's shrine.

All the faithful and Muslim people of Qom have been invited to participate in these ceremonies.

IRGC To Offer Prayers

LD2305181289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] has announced that following the successful operation carried out on His Excellency Imam Khomeyni, commander in chief and leader of the Islamic revolution, and in order to express gratefulness for his health, prayer ceremonies wil be held from 2030 tonight in the IRGC's central headquarters mosque in Piruzi Street. Basijis and the Guards will participate in these ceremonies to pray for the health of the imam of ummah, the person symbolizing God's great blessing. They will pray for his long life until the reappearance of the 12th imam, the lord of the ages.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interviewed

NC2405074989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0725 GMT 24 May 89

[Telephone interview with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified announcer—live]

[Text] [Announcer] Greetings, and congratulations on 3 Khordad [anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. I congratulate our nation on the very good news for us of the successful operation on the imam of the ummah. God willing, this operation will ensure his health for years to come. I also congratulate our nation on today, an important, historic day in the history of Islam and in the history of Iran. The epic that was created on this day can always be a source for motivation, honor, and glory for the future of this country and of Islam and for future generations. Our nation does not have many such days in the history of its life. God willing, our people know the value of this day and will carry out their duties.

[Announcer] Your Excellency, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, I already informed our dear listeners earlier that in the beginning of your speech [to a gathering on Khorramshahr Day] you relayed news on the health of the imam and his successful operation. However, can you yourself speak about the last visit that you had with the imam?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] One hour ago, before coming here, I went to see the imam. He was in bed, and the doctors were around him. His health was very good. I asked him how he was. He was very cheerful. I asked if he had any pain, and he replied that he has very little and that he is comfortable. I did not bother him more and left. He is feeling very wel. I left feeling very happy.

[Announcer] May God extend his shadow and the shadow of you, his dear associates.

Khamene'i Comments on Khomeyni

NC2405084789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0505 GMT 24 May 89

[Telephone interview with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i by unidentified announcer on the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr—live]

[Text] [Khamene'i] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr is one of the most outstanding historic memories of the Muslim Iranian nation and is filled with epics, honor, faith, and trust.

The recapture of Khorramshahr was not only a military conquest, it was a political victory, and above all, the fulfillment of revolutionary ideals and the manifestation of the revolutionary identity of the Iranian nation. Undoubtedly for a revolution—a revolution as great and spectacular as the revolution of the Iranian nation—the development of human strength and the creation of revolutionary morale in each and every individual is one of the greatest objectives and goals.

During the great conquests of the Bayt ol-Moqaddas [operation] and, ultimately, the conquest of Khorramshahr, our dear nation and our selfless basijis, combatants, Army, and Revolution Guards showed that they have made spectacular and outstanding progress toward construction by the revolution's criteria. In this incident, despite the fact that our combatants did not have the facilities that the enemy had at its disposal, they carried out an act only by relying on their faith and determination and in order to respond to the command of the great leader of the revolution. This act was so great and awe-inspiring that the world did not believe it at first. After the world was informed and believed, everyone confessed that the balance was completely in Iran's favor in the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran.

At that time we were approached by the heads of various countries who came to Tehran because of affairs involving the war. They all unanimously believed that Iran's victory in the Khorramshahr battle and the regaining of this dear and oppressed city completely shifted the balance. This became possible only thanks to the devotion, faith, and firm determination of our dear combatants and their worthy commanders.

Our great memory of that faith should be used today for the reconstruction of Khorramshahr, for the reconstruction of the borders, and for the reconstruction of our country with revolutionary criteria. We hope that God Almighty will help our entire nation and especially our dear, pious, and revolutionary youth in this work.

[Announcer] We thank you very much, Your Excellency.

[Khamene'i] You are welcome.

[Announcer] Your Excellency, can you please inform our dear people about the imam's health situation?

[Khamene'i] The imam's health situation is good, thank God. I called a few minutes ago, and they said that his situation is very good. Of course, as the people were informed yesterday and last night, the operation was extremely successful. Fortunately and thank God, there is nothing to worry about.

[Announcer] We thank you for your kindness.

[Khamene'i] I thank you too.

Ayatollah Golpayegani's Message

LD2305211189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Following the successful operation on the digestive system of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani sent a telegram addressed to him. According to IRNA, the text of the telegram is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Ayatollah Mr Khomeyni, may your blessings continue. With greetings, I am thankful that the operation has been successful and has removed any anxiety. It is hoped that under the blessings of his holiness the remnant of God, the lord of the cause [of God] [the hidden imam], may the souls of the world be sacrificed unto him, and as the result of the sincere prayers of the believers in the prayer meetings, your blessed being will be immune from all dangers. I beseech God Almighty for your recovery and I am expecting the glad news of your full recovery. May God bestow upon the Muslims the continuation of your blessed life.

[Dated] 17 Shawwal 1409 [23 May 1989]

[Signed] Mohammad Reza Musavi-Golpayegani

According to the same report, a meeting of prayers and of thanksgiving will be organized by Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani on Wednesday, 3 Khordad [24 May], from 6 o'clock in the afternoon, in Feyziyyeh College in Qom.

Shi'ite Official: Khomeyni Condition 'Precarious'

LD2305214389 Paris Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Is Ayatollah Khomeyni on the point of death? The information is conflicting. Following his operation for an internal hemorrhage, the country's official news agency states that Ayatollah Khomeyni is well. But in Paris Ayatollah Rohani, the spiritual leader of the Shi'ite community in Europe, maintains the opposite, and states that Khomeyni is in a precarious condition. The head of the Iranian revolution is now 89 [figure as heard].

Khamene'i Addresses Cabinet on Foreign Visits

LD2005115789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] A cabinet session was convened today in the presence of President Khamene'i. The Central News Unit reports that the importance of the president's and his accompanying delegation's visit to the PRC and the DPRK, and the aims and outcome of the discussions held with the two countries' officials were reviewed and debated. In addition, the necessary decisions were made with regard to coordination among the executive establishments and on ways of implementing the achieved agreements.

The session continued with the submission of a report by Foreign Minister Velayati, and by Messrs Forouzesh and Mirzadeh, the heads of the joint bilateral commissions between the Islamic Republic of Iran, the PRC, and the DPRK, and the other ministers who accompanied the president on these visits. Mr Khamene'i, having reassessed the discussions, expounded on the policy of Iran on relations with the PRC and the DPRK.

The president continued his remarks, saying: The valuable standard attained by our nation as a result of the imposed war of learning to recognize friends from foes is a precious experience which will be considered in the regulations of our relations with various countries around the world. These visits and their resulting understandings will certainly increase the level of amicable relations of our people and government with the peoples and governments of these two countries

The president added: The historical relations in the past and the similar combative experiences, as well as the successful experiences gained by our country and these two countries, have constituted inherent talents which will come into fruition as a result of such trips. These visits should not be limited to establishing the groundwork for transactions and communications in the industrial, technological, and scientific spheres.

In conclusion, Mr Khamene'i stressed: Working in an orderly and earnest fashion by the people, and the establishment of management in those two countries, if intertwined with the spiritualism and freedom which is the motto of our Islamic revolution, would aid in the reconstruction and national economy of our country, thereby presenting a comprehensive and agreeable role model in the Iranian nation.

Joint Executive, Judicial Session Held

LD2205224889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] A joint session of the Supreme Judicial Council and the State Security Council was held today, chaired by Mr Musavi-Ardabili and in the presence of Interior Minister Mohtashemi and Tehran's public prosecutor and Islamic revolution prosecutor. In the course of this meeting talks were held on creating greater harmony between the executive forces and the judicial authorities all over the country and a proper and logical response against gangs of corruption, prostitution, bandits and any move that breaches the security of society and the people.

It was agreed that a commission should be set up comprising representatives of the Supreme Judicial Council and the State Security Council to investigate the important reports received from the judicial and executive units and to communicate these reports to the Supreme Judicial Council and the State Security Council.

Reappraisal Council Deliberations Noted

NC2305075789 [Editorial Report] Tehran Television Service in Persian at 1830 GMT on 21 May carries a 45-minute video report on the deliberations of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution. The date of the deliberations is not given.

The session begins with Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, member of the Council of Guardians, saying that three of the members will speak against proposed amendments to the Constitution. Then Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani answers an indistinct question, by saying that the regulations state that 10 people will speak for 10 minutes each.

Jannati then speaks about the terms "mojtahed" [theologian] and "ejtehad" [theology]. He says that the intention is for the work of the people to be carried out efficiently by capable persons. He says that at the onset of the revolution, when the Constitution was written, the scholars who compiled it stated the term "ejtehad" in many affairs and included the word "marja'" [source of emulation] as a qualification for leadership. He admits that problems soon arose and says "that this was due to a lack of experience in ruling and in executive affairs because of the newness of the revolution. But now that 10 years have passed and we have been through practical problems, we realize that in the reappraisal of the Constitution it is not necessary to include conditions which will create problems for us once again." He goes on to discuss the judiciary branch and says that if the term "mojtahed" is included as one of the necessary conditions, "we will face practical problems and will have to create mojtaheds for no reason at all."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then explains that each one of the members in favor or against can speak a maximum of 10 minutes, in one 10-minute portion or in two 5-minute portions.

The next speaker is Musavi-Ardabili, the president of the Supreme Judicial Council, who refers to the remarks the prime minister made in former sessions. He says that the prime minister said that "the shortcomings in the judiciary branch stem from the fact that this branch did not have the necessary means at its disposal. This is correct. This frankly is very correct and true, and we realize

this." He asks whether the solution to this problem is to give the authority rested in this branch to the executive branch, or to do something that would make the judiciary independent of its budget. "Why should we put all the means at the disposal of the executive branch but ask the judiciary to assume the responsibility? This is not correct and I do not accept this." He compares this to placing the budget and programs in the hands of the president, and the responsibility of the nation on the shoulders of the prime minister. He opposes depriving a branch of its authority and rights and placing these in the hands of another branch. "The president is still complaining that I should receive my salary from the prime minister. This shows the extent of this problem. But, if, God willing, financial independence for the juduciary branch can be considered, this will solve both his just complaint and also will prevent other problems." Musavi-Ardabili then refers to the remarks of Sheykh Mehdi Karrubi, the imam's representative, and says that the judiciary cannot be compared to other institutions and branches. You want a judge to be a just mojtahed. "God willing, our system will try to make the judiciary branch Islamic." He says that, let us assume the following: a system is comprised of members who are just mojtaheds and have executive affairs in their hanbds, but administrative affairs are in the hands of a person who is not a mojtahed. This is like placing the management of a religious school in the hands of a nonclerical person. How can we have such an extensive institution throughout Iran whose members are lawyers or not, and "place this in the hands of a nonclerical person or say, for example, that he can be a cleric but not a mojtahed." He then adds that "as long as the system is an Islamic one, the best place for the committed clergymen is in the judicial system" and that it should be run by clergymen.

The next speaker is Deputy 'Abdollah Nuri, who says that "the reason I am speaking against the proposed amendments in these deliberations is primarily because I cannot vote in favor due to the existence of several ambiguities which, if clarified, may help to clarify my vote." He goes on to discuss the judiciary, referring to Article 156. He says that this article has given some authority to the judiciary which does not apply to the executive branch, "therefore, it is not very clear where the line is drawn between the duties of the executive and the judiciary branches." He adds that the Constitution does not draw a clear line between the duties of the two branches and says that if the intention is to maintain Articles 157 and 162, then problems will arise. "But as far as the generalities of these deliberations are concerned, I would like to point out that, in my opinion, in this discussion of the judiciary branch, the problem of the council form should be viewed as only one of the problems; not all of the judiciary's problems are due to its council form." If we are to discuss whether it is better to have a council or centralization, then we can end the deliberations and say that there will not be a council but one person in charge. "In the judiciary and the executive branches, responsibilities and authority are not in proportion. We have given the executive branch the responsibility to establish order and public security, and the authority to the judiciary. This should be clarified. Either the responsibility to establish order and public security should be placed in the hands of the judiciary branch because of the authority it has vested in it, or we should give both the responsibility and the authority for this to the executive branch." Who will be in charge of preventing a disturbance in the country if this happens? He then goes on to discuss the need to clarify responsibilities and authority and says that the problems of these two institutions must "always be solved by the leadership or by something like the Expediency Discernment Council," because the Constitution does not clarify how such problems should be solved. He then goes on to discuss the problems faced by the executive branch in confronting high prices, hoarding, and drugs, and says that if the executive branch does not have the necessary means at its disposal and authority, it will face problems.

The next speaker is Ayatollah Khazali, member of the Council of Guardians, who speaks about the qualifications a judge must have and the selection process for a judge. He says that he will continue his deliberations after others have spoken.

The next speaker is Deputy Amini, who speaks about the judiciary branch and the various problems, saying that, at the onset of the revolution, everything was in council form. "The problems that emerged later on were partially blamed on the councils" and the imam's letter on centralization in the judiciary clarified that this branch should emerge from this form. "But is it really necessary to remove the councils in this way in order to achieve centralization and to ignore the interests of the council?" He goes on to discuss the benefits of maintaining councils.

The last speaker is Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who speaks in favor and who defines the word "mojtahed," adding that the members of the committee may think that a mojtahed may not be found in the future. "This should not be a problem because our judiciary system now is revolving around "ejtehad" and there are many "mojtaheds" in it. It is impossible that we will not find a mojtahed in our Islamic society. Therefore, a mojtahed will be found in the future and we will not have any problems in searching for one person. Thus, let us include this good and beneficial point in here in order to maintain the strength of our judiciary power." He then refers to the opposition to the existence of councils. "If you mean councils in their current form, then our experience shows that this is not a good form." But, if you mean a consultative council, then it is not too late to have something like this. Meetings should end with decisions being reached. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then refers to centralization and to the issue of financial independence, saying that these should be discussed. He adds that we should be able to draw a line "and take away from the judiciary branch affairs that have nothing to do with the judiciary and to give it whatever has to do with the judiciary. The

experience of 10 years is sufficient for us to be able to understand what should be centralized and where." He adds that "during meetings of the commanders of the three forces, we usually hear complaints from the Information Ministry, from the Revolution Guards Corps, and from the Interior Ministry. They have problems with regard to the judiciary branch and vice versa." These are solved by the imam, "and this is not befitting our system. After 10 years, we should be able to solve such things." In summing up, he says that he hopes that these deliberations will be able to solve various problems.

The session ends and Hashemi-Rafsanjani says that there will be more sessions to deliberate these topics in the future.

Constitution Reappraisal Council Meets 23 May

LD2405032289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The 11th plenary session of the Council for Reappraisal of the Constitution met on Tuesday afternoon under the chairmanship of Ayatollah Meshkini.

At this session, Ayatollah Meshkini offered to Almighty God his own gratitude, as well as that of the members of the Council for Reappraisal of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the successful operation on his excellency the imam of the ummah, may his shadow lengthen.

Appreciating the efforts of the physicians, the president of the Council for Reappraisal of the Constitution offered prayers for the health, prosperous longevity, and continued wise leadership of the dear Imam.

According to the secretariat of the Council for Reappraisal of the Constitution, the council then took up items on the agenda. First, the report on centralizing radio and television management was submitted. Then reports were submitted on the number of Majlis representatives, on ways and means of reappraising the Constitution, and on changing the name of the National Consultative Assembly to the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

After hearing the explanatory report, followed by statements from those in favor and those against, votes were called. The committee report on changing the name to Islamic Consultative Assembly was approved unanimously.

The report states that the same committee's report on the number of the Majlis representatives was debated. The reporter offered his explanatory report, which was followed by statements from those in favor and those against the motion. The reporter also furnished answers. Voting was left to the next session.

Daily Cited on Economic, Political Decisions

LD2205200489 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—A Persian daily Monday underlined the significance of the president's visit to Beijing and Pyongyang last week, as well as the scheduled visit to Moscow by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslami Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and termed them as "evidence of a major political and economic decision on the part of Iran during the reconstruction period."

ETTELA'AT said Hoj. 'Ali Khamene'i's talks in China and North Korea as well as detailed talks in Tehran by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Voronstov who departed Sunday "indicate that Iran has entered significant long-term agreements with each of the three countries entailing commercial, economic, political and possibly military implications until the year 2,000."

The more so, it thought considering that Iran's ties with Western Europe and the United States being now at its lowest since 1979, which all point towards major national and international impacts.

The daily said in view of priorities declared by the Headquarters for National Reconstruction, Iran would be willing to exploit foreign technology on certain principal sectors such as oil and energy.

The article noted that during the next decade which will mark a long-term period of cooperation between Iran, China, North Korea and the Soviet Union each of these countries will be preoccupied with their own problems, their own affairs, and their separate goals and consequently their individual interests.

During the next decade all the four states will do their best in order to recast and rebuild their economies, harmonize their internal policies with the requisites for economic development plans, and formulate their foreign policies consistent with available resources.

It said China is involved with a slow-moving economic renovation and is trying to catch up with the political feelings of the masses, and is consequently witnessing some sort of instability within the Communist Party leadership, and added that North Korea, although enjoying a steady and notable economic progress, faces a political development in the form of changes in its leadership with yet unpredictable consequences. The Soviet Union, too, is involved with economic reconstruction and its concomittant political turmoil with Mikhail Gorbachev and his aides being at its center.

ETTELA'AT said, "Alternatively, too, in our own country we witness similar developments: The amendments to the Constitution, the need for fast economic and military reconstruction, and the present political fervor among the leaders which are symptoms of developments with impacts on the future of the Islamic revolution."

It is all too obvious that a "lasting decision" is the product of "lasting interests" with the latter being extremely difficult to decide in the face of the international political scene, it said.

The daily recommended that Iran mix expectations of the efficiency of recent decisions with a realistic evaluation of the prospective achievements.

Iraqi Kurds Attack Battalion Base in Sulaymaniyah
LD2205214189 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] The Iraqi Kurdish peshmergas [fighters], in a series of operations launched in the past several days, annihilated the Battalion One base of the 112th Brigade, Division 27 of Iraq, in the Khurmal region, the Iraqi Province of Al-Sulaymaniyah. IRNA has quoted Kurdish informed sources saying that in the course of these operations the peshmergas killed a great number of the Iraqi regime's forces, took captive two of them and took as booty a great amount of weapons and ammunition.

Charge Says Kuwaiti Gunboat Affair 'Settled'
JN2305172289 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 22 May 89 p 1

[By Fatimah Ahmad]

[Text] Iran has successfully mobilised its weapons industry and has the capability to produce a wide variety of sophisticated weaponry, Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Kuwait Javad Torkabadi said yesterday.

He also said the missing gunboat affair has been settled with Kuwait.

During the eight-year Gulf war, "Iran faced kind of economic siege and realised the prudence of achieving self- reliance, not only in the manufacture of weapons but also in making other industrial products," he said.

Turkabadi said in an exclusive interview, his country's leadership has studied the "changed military needs and will concentrate on developing its (weapons) industry to improve the armed forces."

Commenting on reports that Iran has plans to buy weapons from China, and other countries, he said: "Iran will buy (from other sources) weapons that can't be made in Iran; we'll buy from those (countries) who sell (arms) without any pre-conditions on how and where to sue [as published] (them)".

Turkabadi stressed "Iran will use arms only to protect its independence."

He said Iran is also rebuilding the induistrial base, focussing on development of its "economic resources." The economic structure was virtually destroyed during the gulf war years.

He said the proposed constitutional amendments would enable Iran to "overcome the war effects." On Ayatollah Khomeyni's instructions, Iran is currently reviewing the constitution to "rectify flaws and weaknesses." A committee, comprising 25 experts, from the judiciary and other bodies, is studying the amendments.

Turkabadi said the presidential elections, due in August this year, will be preceded by a referendum. The elections would provide "evidence of cohesive and strong leadership in Iran," he added.

He declined to comment on the possibility of re- establishing ties with the US, saying: "I am in an Arab country; I'll talk about Arab issues."

Asked to comment on the missing Kuwaiti gunboat, Turkabadi dismissed it as "a common incident."

"Any boat at sea can go missing due to a storm or any other reason; it was an incident (that could take place) anywhere around the world. He said the matter has been "settled" with the Kuwaiti authorities.

Turkabadi, who took up his post in Kuwait early last week, said Iran hopes to strengthen "brotherly relations" with the Arab and Muslim world.

Court Hearing on Airbus Downing Discussed
LD2005120889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1051 GMT 20 May 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With greetings to the dear listners, the Islamic Republic of Iran has submitted a complaint about the shooting down of the Iranian passenger aircraft by the U.S. Navy to the International Court of Justice [ICJ] at The Hague.

In its complaint Iran has asked the ICJ to study and rule on the responsibility of the U.S. Government for this inhumane act. Among the major points in the complaint, which the Islamic Republic of Iran has submitted is that of determining the responsibility of the U.S. Government for paying compensation to the Government of Iran.

For nearly 1 year since the attack by the U.S. warship on the Iranian passenger aircraft, the U.S. Government has refrained from paying compensation while trying to evade legal responsibility which derives from the criminal act of the military personnel of that government.

Therefore, clarification of the responsibility of the U.S. Government for payment of compensation to the Government of Iran is the most important objective in submitting the said complaint at the ICJ. Yet, despite the existence of authentic evidence pertaining to the conscious and direct responsibility of the U.S. military

forces in downing the Iranian passenger aircraft, responsible authorities in this field, including the ICAO, have refused to recognize the responsibility of the U.S. Government to condemn their criminal act. Hence, the need for an investigation and legal assessment by the ICJ concerning the U.S. terrorism.

This comes at a time when there are ample reasons to show that the criminal U.S. act in attacking the Iranian passenger aircraft is in violation of international law. The text of the complaint by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran submitted to the ICJ, makes reference to these laws.

In its investigation of Iran's complaint, the ICJ, will probably, in the first instance, address the question of its own competence to hear the case. Whether or not the U.S. Government will accept the verdict of the ICJ, in the event such a verdict is handed down, is almost clear now.

The official statement by the U.S. Government in this regard states that Washington does not recognize the competence of the ICJ to investigate this criminal case. Yet, in event the ICJ issues a verdict, it is quite conceivable that the United States will reject the result of the arbitration [as heard] of the ICJ, in the same manner as the United States rejected the previous verdict of that court with regard to Nicaragua.

National Airline To Increase Gulf Flights

LD2005200189 Tehran IRNA in English 1847 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA—Flights from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Persian Gulf states are to be increased in the future, Iran Air Managing Director Mohammad Reza said today.

On his return from a tour of several Gulf states including UAE [United Arab Emirates], Kuwait and Qatar, he said "Flights to other foreign countries will also increase."

Majidi announced that direct Shiraz-Damascus, and Mashhad-Damascus flights will soon be in operation.

He also disclosed that Iran Air is to purchase several Airbus planes to upgrade the capacity of its commercial fleet.

Majlis Supports Guards, Defense Ministries Merger

LD2305133589 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—The first reading of a bill to merge the ministries of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps and Defence was approved [words indistinct]. The bill will go back to committee stage where it will be discussed in detail and then reintroduced to the full Majlis.

The majority vote in favor of the bill, which has been sponsored by a number of deputies, came after two days of deliberations on its generalities.

The Defence Committee had first rejected the bill on grounds that it was believed Imam Khomeyni opposed such a merger.

But the committee's arguments were countered by those in favor and the full Majlis voted to go ahead to the second reading which will be done after details are worked out.

The new organization, which supporters believe would improve coordination among the armed forces, would be called "Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics".

Serious discussion on combining the two ministries was put off last spring because of the ongoing war. After the ceasefire last August the idea reemerged.

Pakistan

Bhutto Departs for 4-Day Visit to Turkey 24 May

BK2405053889 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has left Islamabad for Ankara this morning on a 4-day official visit to Turkey. She was seen off at the airport by Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad, federal ministers, ministers of state, advisers, parliament members, chairman of the Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, chief of the Army Staff, and other senior officials.

Bhutto Interviewed on National Issues

BK2005141089 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 May 89 pp 1, 6

[Text] Islamabad, May 4: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that her government is committed to taking "courageous" steps in the budget to put the economy back on track again. She also disclosed in an exclusive interview with "THE MUSLIM" that as a result of recent negotiations between the IMF and her government, the Fund had agreed to ease the pace of adjustment measures that Pakistan was required to carry out. This year for example, Pakistan will be required to cut the budget deficit to 6 percent of GDP [gross domestic product], rather than 5.5 percent, as previously insisted. This implies that the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government may have more economic options open to it including a larger Annual Development Programme (ADP) than may have been originally possible.

The Prime Minister was emphatic in stating that her government would not compromise on the country's security needs, describing defence as Pakistan's "number one need." She made it clear, however, that the government was determined to tackle the problem of the huge budgetary deficit in order to put the economy back in

shape. Depicting this task as a bi-partisan issue, she said the objective of restoring the country's financial health ought to have bi-partisan support because it was a national issue.

In a comprehensive interview, the first the Prime Minister has given to the domestic press since she assumed power, she spoke about a wide range of national and international issues. Expressing concern over the Sind situation which she called "a form of guerrilla warfare," Prime Minister Bhutto said that the low-key insurgency had increased as a result of past policies which included the total neglect of civilian law enforcing agencies in the province. Wrongly depicted as an ethnic problem or a law and order problem, the situation in Sind [Province] was "nothing less than an insurgency" which could even lead to the "physical division" of the area, according to the Prime Minister. But she voiced confidence that the measures being taken by the government would help bring normalcy back to the province. In response to a question Prime Minister Bhutto said that the recent decision of the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] and the ANP [Awami National Party] to quit PPP cabinets in the provinces of Sind and the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] respectively, posed no threat to these governments which she described as "strong, stable and having clear majorities." In the context of the Frontier, she said her government was not opposed to the appointment of an ANP Governor, but she admitted that there was "a little bit of a difficulty over timing." The matter, however, was under discussion, she added.

On relations with the Punjab government, the Prime Minister sounded less optimistic, attributing the problem to the IJI's [Islamic Democratic Alliance] inability to reconcile itself with the new democratic order in the country and a PPP government in power. She described her government's 3-point policy agenda as: (1) Fostering social and economic progress; (2) forging national unity and (3) enhancing Pakistan's prestige abroad. Citing the three agreements signed with India last December as one of her government's achievements, she suggested that the reduction of tensions with India had helped avert a two-front situation for the country: When the continuation of the uncertain situation in Afghanistan could have coincided with an Indian military buildup on Pakistan's eastern border, like the Bluestar military exercises conducted by Delhi in the past. In the interview conducted in the Prime Minister's office in Rawalpindi, she ranged over many issues including Afghanistan and India. She also defended her cabinet against charges of being too large and unwieldy and lacking talent.

Excerpts from the interview:

Q: Your government has now been in power for five months, which is sufficient time to define your policy agenda and set the tone of your administration. Your supporters say this has been a period of consolidation. But your detractors say you have very little to show for these five months.

A: My detractors had nothing to show for eleven years, so they are not in a position to speak.

Q: How do you, yourself, assess your first five months in power?

A: The challenges before us were overwhelming, but by the Grace of Allah, we overcame them. I do not think we would have been able to achieve as much as we have achieved had it not been for the support that the people of Pakistan—of the four federating units—gave us. Never has a country experienced as difficult a period as we have. Not only the period running up to the elections, but the period before power was transferred and once power was grudgingly transferred, every attempt was made to destabilise democracy. You will recall that after General Zia's death in a plane crash, his supporters went knocking on the doors of the military, asking for martial law. They never reconciled themselves to democracy and did everything, from the moment of his (General Ziaul Haq's) death till the government was formed, to destabilise democracy.

In addition to that we inherited a regional situation in which we had two military buildups by India. We had the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. We had the country destabilised from within. We had a bankrupt economy and a culture of violence and of guns. There was no respect for law.

After we came into government, we charted our goals very clearly and very categorically. Our aims were to enhance the prestige of Pakistan in international forums. I am sorry to say that internationally Pakistan has a very difficult situation today, unlike the 70s, which perhaps even General Ziaul Haq's funeral demonstrated, when hardly anybody turned up.

Pakistan's foreign policy has been one dimensional. They have just been talking about Afghanistan. They have not been interacting with other states, identifying with their problems, to give them support so that at a time when we need support, we can obtain this. So we aim to enhance the prestige of Pakistan in international forums.

Secondly, within the country, we intend to unite the nation on one platform which is a political platform. We have had eleven years of non-party government, where ties and links between areas and people have broken. So we want to have a common platform of common ideas, common leadership, a common programme [words illegible].

Thirdly we want to embark on a programme of social and economic emancipation by bringing progress to our people. These are the three main areas that we have charted. We have been following this road.

We were successful in signing three agreements with India. It was very important that we did so. In fact it was a big success for Pakistan because we would not have liked to have the same "Blue Star" operations taking

place with the existing situation in Afghanistan. The SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit went off very well too.

Talks with the IMF (International Monetary Fund) have also concluded on a positive note in the sense that they have given us interim relief. We are now not required to cut the budget deficit to 5.5 percent (of GDP) this year but need to cut it to 6 percent.

We have started on a programme to ameliorate the lot of the people through the People's Programme. So I think that in a very short time we have done so many things. And we have started with respect for the rule of law. When you look at the situation during Junejo's time, he had all the four federating units with him and the full backing of General Ziaul Haq who was also chief of the military. When my father (the late Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto) took over, the military was demoralised and he had a large parliamentary majority.

But when we took over there was a lot of suspicion, fear and anxiety everywhere. In addition to that, we had a narrow margin in the National Assembly, only two of the provincial governments with us, and the IJI bent upon destabilising the country. But despite that we overcame all the odds. And Insha Allah [God Willing] in the future too, we will overcome all the odds and the enemies of the people will be fully humiliated.

Then the wheat crisis the country was facing could have led to the worst wheat shortage in the country's history, with starvation stalking the land. We put a stop to that. We also put a stop to a lot of plans that were made for sabotage. So when we prevent something that avoids people going through hardship, perhaps they cannot appreciate the magnitude of the challenge that was before us.

Q: But who was planning this kind of sabotage?

A: There is a form of guerilla warfare going on in the province of Sind. For eleven years all sorts of elements were able to arm themselves, to train themselves, to prepare ammunition dumps, and to conduct a low key insurgency. Now that insurgency is increasing. The entire administration was geared towards political opponents and therefore there has been no infiltration of ethnic or sectarian sectors. The civil law enforcing agencies were totally ignored and the result is that a city like Karachi with a population of 8 million has only 10,000 to look after it, whereas in Bombay, for example, they have 40,000. In Thailand they have 10,000, in England for 7 million they have 38,000. Now of course we can't raise such numbers, because what about houses for them, uniforms for them?

The difficulty for the government is that not only have we inherited the responsibilities that come with an elected government—from Dec. 2, 1988—but because there was such neglect in the last eleven years, there is a whole burden of the past.

Q: When you say a low-intensity insurgency, do you share the belief of some officials that this is backed by India?

A: We cannot say who it is backed by. Nor can we exclude any posibilities at this stage. But I will say that it is totally wrong to call this an ethnic problem. It is totally wrong to call this a law and order problem. This is nothing less than an insurgency going on at a low scale in the province of Sind. It has garbed itself in ethnic colour. Some of these elements have infiltrated into the rank and file of different groups. And what they are trying to do is to divide Sind [Province] on ethnic lines, which can subsequently lead even to the physical division of the area. It is part of a grand design. But this design will not succeed because we are on to the task and we are taking remedial measures. As a consequence of this, already some people have been intercepted. The organisation is of a cellular kind, so to break one cell does not mean the other. But for the first time in twelve years, these elements are now on the run, whereas in the past no one bothered about them. They were permitted to do what they liked, permitted to grow in strength.

Q: Sind is indeed described as a make or break issue for your government. It is said that the ultimate success of your government will largely be judged by your success in tackling the Sind problem.

A: I don't agree with that view. The Pakistan People's Party is a national party and we have national responsibilities. As I have already pointed out our aims are to restore and rehabilitate Pakistan's international image, bring about internal reconciliation by uniting the people on a common platform, under a common leadership and common programme. And thirdly, our aim is to bring economic progress and prosperity to the people. We will be judged on these three factors. But if the enemies of democracy try to make or break this government on the question of Sind, let me tell you that will not make or break the government, it will make or break the country.

Q: You have spoken several times in the past about the numerous constraints upon your freedom to manoeuvre. You yourself have described these to stem from political, constitutional and economic factors. Five months down the line, how hamstrung are you by such constraints? What would you identify as the most constraining factor?

A: I think that there is an inbuilt system of checks and balances which leads to a certain kind of paralysis in government, so that the government cannot move as people expect a parliamentary government to move, and many factors have to be taken into consideration. Now this is part of the present constitutional situation. It is

also part of the present political situation, with the formation of the IJI government in the majority province of Punjab and it is something one has to take in one's stride. I think perseverence and commitment to a goal has been the hallmark of the people's struggle. I have no doubt in my mind that with the same perseverence and commitment we will be successful.

Q: Nonethless, how have your relations been with the other elements of the power equation: The military and the President?

A: In any given situation where there are different elements involved, any sensible person comes to terms with the situation. And that goes for all the people involved.

Q: So your relations have been smooth?

A: Everyone is at terms with each other and our relations have been smooth. Everyone has to work together for the country. As far as the President is concerned, we did not want to have an IJI President and that is why we thought that it was in the national interest to have the President above controversy. The major political parties backed the President and he is in a unique position to be above the normal humdrum. He is a person who has tremendous experience. He has been helpful to me on many an occasion.

As far as the military leaders are concerned, they committed themselves to the process of democracy long before the PPP government was inducted and are in a democratic Pakistan the key to ensuring the strength of the country. And therefore given the context, there is an understanding and a relatiosnship which is cordial and brings about a smooth functioning of government.

Q: Problems and difficulties have been multiplying for your government since you assumed office...

A: No, decreasing. The wheat crisis was tackled.

Q: Some you are tackling, but some new problems are also cropping up.

A: We inherited a host of problems, but if I had to do a sum and a total of it, I would say that today the situation is not as bad as it was on December 2, 1988.

Q: Nonetheless, your governments in Sind [Province] and the NWFP are in trouble because your alliances with other parties in these provinces seem to be unravelling. What repercussions will this have in the long run?

A: Both the governments in Sind and the Frontier are strong, stable and they have clear majorities, so they are not dependent on coalition partners. Therefore there is no danger at all to their functioning.

Q: Your Chief Minister in the Frontier has said, on behalf of the party, that he still stands by the commitment to appoint an ANP nominee as provincial Governor. Is that the party position?

A: Yes, the party position may be clarified. Indeed, this is the position of the government. In our view the Governor acts as a representative of the Federal government. Therefore, whosoever is Governor is bound to carry out the directions and policies of the government. In our agreement with the ANP, they had made no special provisions, nor would we have granted any provisions for any extra-constitutional powers to the Governor. Thus even if an ANP Governor is appointed in the province, that Governor would follow the federation's policies. And if he did not, then the agreement would no longer stand and he could not be the Governor.

The matter is under discussion and a dialogue is on with the ANP. We are not opposed to the induction of an ANP Governor, but perhaps there is a little bit of difficulty about the timing of it.

Q: Moving now to the Punjab, your relatiosnship with the Punjab government continues to be tension-ridden. The latest source of friction is the People's Programme. How can differences be ironed out—indeed can they ever be ironed out?

A: The problems are not with Punjab. The problems arise from the fact that there are two parties in the Punjab—the IJI and the PPP. The IJI has been in power for eleven years and if you look at some of their fortunes, they have trebled if not quadrupled. They cannot get used to the idea, that today Zia is dead and they are gone. So that is the basic tension. They do not want the PPP to stay in power. They do not want democracy to thrive and they are opposing us. In fact, the only opposition comes from those areas where there are opposition parties in power. I wish they would realise that they may, as parties, be opposition, but they are part of the Federal government and they must acquiesce to the Federal government. They are part of the federation; they are components of the federation. But at times, instead of acting as a component of the federation they try to act more as an opposition. So it is not the federation vs a province, but really the IJI vs PPP. And that is not a proper system. I expect provincial governments to give full respect to the federation. And we in the federation give full respect to the provinces.

I don't believe in political compromises like "we are going to blackmail you into giving us extra-constitutional powers." I fought for the Constitution. This Constitution, is not one that I think is perfect for Pakistan. I believe the Constitution of 1973 provides for a far better relationship. But nonetheless, whatever is the law, I think we must abide by it. We must create a culture where there is respect for law. Where there is a constitution, they should go by the constitution. And if there is a difficulty, the courts are there to arbitrate.

Incidentally, 37 members of the Court were appointed by the IJI in just the period between 2 May and 2 December. So why are they frightened of going to the Courts when I am not? But they know the judges will do justice according to the Constitution.

Q: It is neverthless said that the PPP's own behaviour in Punjab has made something of a hero of Nawaz Sharif [leader of Islamic Democratic Alliance and chief minister of Punjab]. It is argued that had your party simply ignored him, he would be half the figure he is now. Do you agree with this and for instance, regard what came to be known as the Punjab operation launched by your party, as a mistake?

A: Whether he is half a figure or a full figure, that is really confined just to the newspapers. Many of the storms that stir, I think, are more confined to the newspapers than anybody else. Extravagant statements are made which nobody at large really hears, but mini-dramas are created. It seems that since there has been press censorship for so long, there are very few papers that actually go into the truth of the matter. I am surprised that when it involves the high office of the President, or the Prime Minister, or government ministers, the basic norm of journalism, which is to confirm a story, is not adhered to. We have read a lot of slander and maliciousness in the Press. But we have decided that as the Press is finding its feet, it is best to let it find its own feet with the passage of time.

Q: It is still said that the Punjab PPP is in the throes of a leadership crisis—effective leadership on the other hand is the key to your party's political future in the Punjab.

A: I think the problem of Pakistan, especially of the Punjab is not that there are two, three leaders, but perhaps there are too many leaders.

Q: But even that may make for a crisis.

A: No, it does not make for a crisis. It is normal political behaviour. We don't know what politics is because we have not had it in our country. But if we look at Mrs. Thatcher's Cabinet, it has been ridden from the day she came into power by the "wets" and doves. And if we look at President Reagan's Cabinet, we find frequent changes there. In a parliamentary system there is going to be discussion. Why are we afraid of discussion or dissent? But the party is totally united when it comes to an ultimate decision. It knows that its strength lies in its cohesiveness.

Q: You have already warned that the budget will be tough. How concerned are you about the political repercussions of tough measures, which could in fact produce a summer of discontent, especially with an opposition ready to exploit such a situation. How will you balance economic realities with obvious political risks?

A: We are in government to try to serve the people of Pakistan not to be hypocritical or mislead them. If we resort to the kind of gimmicks that were resorted to by the IJI, then the country will be in even deeper trouble. We want to take the country out of trouble and put the economy back on sound rails. Therefore, there will need to be a budget as has earlier been described.

For us, putting the economy back on a sound track is a bipartisan issue, because saving the economy means saving the country. We therefore expect and would wish to build bipartisan support for this. Those who might seek to politically exploit the situation would in fact be opposing a national effort to restore the country's economic health. This is not an issue on which partisan positions can be adopted, it is a national issue.

We, in any case, have the courage to see that we are taking the right step, and that the results of this budget will be that it will reduce inflation. Already from 2 December till now, inflation which was expected to go up to 18 percent was kept down to between 12 and 14 percent, depending on who you are listening to. We feel that by adopting some of these measures which are necessary, ultimately we will head for an economy in which prices do not skyrocket. Of course the wild factor in this game is the price of oil which during the last PPP government, troubled the economy. But if we keep on playing with gimmicks, then we just keep postponing the day of reckoning. It is better to take the people into confidence, put the economy back on track, so that by the time of the next elections, the fruits of this govenrment's labour are evident.

Q: Are you not concerned that new taxation, as for example the proposed sales tax, will have an inflationary impact?

A: Every factor has been taken into consideration and it is felt that by reducing monetary expansion, by reducing expenditure by reducing the deficit, that is the only way we can proceed. All this does involve tightening one's belt.

Q: Is the military too prepared to accept the austerity that the rest of the country will apparently have to undergo?

A: The military is part and parcel of the country and always reflects whatever is within the country. However, defence is the number one need. This government will never compromise as far as the security needs of the country are concerned.

Q: The economy is going to be the key item on the agenda for many months, even years. But your party has very few people, if any, with abilities in this sphere. How great a disability is this?

A: If you look at all the political parties you cannot name one party which has an economist in the sense of a technocrat with them. Dr. Mahbubul Haq [former finance minister] was first going to work with the PPP.

Q: Will he?

A: No. He is not a politician, but a technocrat. There really is a paucity of economists in the political field. And that is because economists are usually professional people and turn towards professions rather than politics. However, we have the services of many good economists. We also have people who are well-educated, intelligent and with a good grasp of economic realities. In addition, I can always rely on the President who knows more about finance than anybody else for informal consultations of course.

Q: Your large cabinet and team of advisers have attracted considerable flak. Two types of criticism have been heard: First, the sheer number of Ministers, which leads to a blurring of lines of authority and therefore responsibility. The second point is about quality, since this large team is not exactly bristling with talent. How do you respond to such criticism?

A: Is it a large Cabinet? Its about the same size, give or take one or two, as Mr. Junejo's Cabinet. And we have five extra Ministries like Youth, Women, Narcotics, Population, Welfare, Special Education. Keeping this in mind, I can tell you I still have some vacancies. And I do not consider this a large cabinet for a country of 110 million people, spread over a vast area, that needs supervision. Such a country which has had no political leadership, needs contacts with the masses; needs political people who will be amongst the people, hear them and redress their grievances.

And if I can ask you a question, who can one recall from General Ziaul Haq's cabinet? Today everyone talks of Nawaz Sharif just because he won four of the eight seats he fought. But if these seats had gone just like the others no one would be talking of him. And yet my father's cabinets, which people used to say had no talent, produced all the people who dominated the politics of the time. Whether they have gone their way or are still with us, they are instantly recognisible although they were only there for five years—like Sheikh Rashid, who may have lost the election, but is known throughout the length and breadth of the country and has a stature. Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi may have gone his own way but it is still around him that the IJI relics are still focusing. Whether it is Hafiz Pirzada or Mumtaz Bhutto, these were all people from the first PPP government. Who is there from the IJI that people remember. Who remembers Raja Zafarul Haq, Javed Hashmi or any other? The second PPP government will produce double the amount produced by the first one—people like Farooq Leghari, Makhdum Amin Fahim, Aftab Sherpao, Qaim Ali Shah. They have substance of their own. We have people like Iqbal Akhund and Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, V.A. Jafferi. So we have many people in this cabient who are experienced, talented and know what they are doing, which is what is bothering our detractors. The more they complain, the better the job we may be doing.

I will agree with you that there are a lot of people who are new, who may not be in command of their Ministries as they should be. But Pakistan has been without democracy for so long. Unless we give these people a chance how will they develop? We have tried to have a balance between those who are experienced and can give a hard structural frame to the government, and those who are new, but intelligent and responsive. Where there are Ministers with little experience, we have taken particular care to choose Secretaries who are technocrats and know the field and can provide the basic input to the Minister so that he can take political decisions on the options available.

General Ziaul Haq appointed about 2,000 officers to different posts to man the government. I have only appointed about forty people which I consider not much.

Q: But, Prime Minister, the people judge your government which is democratically elected by completely different standards than those applied to an unrepresentative authoritarian government. Therefore, there is a sense of disappointment over people in your cabinet who do not exude any competence.

A: As I pointed out, my Ministers are competent and capable. Maybe there are some who are inexperienced and if they don't live up to their job, there will be others.

Q: On Afghanistan, with nothing happening on the political-diplomatic front and with the military path moving too slowly, what options do you have for the future?

A: It is not for Pakistan to have options. Now it is a matter for Afghans—whether they take it fast or slow and whether they follow a military path or a political path. It is really their choice.

Q: But the question affects us—has an impact on Pakistan.

A: It does have an impact on Pakistan. With 3 million refugees on our soil, we would like to see a situation in which conditions are created for their return. But there is a little bit of a transition period going on now. The dust has to settle down after the Soviet withdrawal, which has led to a tremendous vacuum. I suppose everyone among the Mujahidin is adjusting to this situation and facing the Najib regime. It is a transition period. We must accept it as such. Rather than prodding the Afghans toward one direction or another and losing their goodwill, they should be allowed to find their bearing.

Q: But if the current military stalemate persists, what diplomatic options can be exercised?

A: It is not correct to talk of a military stalemate at this stage. There was a guerrilla war going on and it is a completely different things for a guerrilla force to fight conventional battles against a regular army. But despite that the interim government has surrounded Jalalabad and the seige is on. Samar Kheyl and other posts have fallen to the interim government. So one must look at the achievements and not just the expectations.

Q: The Soviets and the Kabul regime have mounted a major propaganda offensive against Pakistan which has been conducted at their top leadership level. There is a view that this has not been countered at the same level by Pakistan and its friends. As a result Moscow may have scored some propaganda points. How can this picture be reversed?

A: The Foreign Office has done a very good job even during the recent Security Council debate in putting across Pakistan's point of view. We do not see anything to be gained by escalating the level of statements and by getting into a more provocative situation. The Soviet or Afghan position is not surprising. After all, they are under pressure from the interim government and they are responding to that pressure. The Afghans have fought a long war and they regard the present administration as an extension of previous Soviet rule. Therefore there will have to be some give and take. It will be very hard to reach a compromise in a position of extremes.

Q: Nonetheless, there is a feeling that lack of statements from the top here has also led to a lot of speculative reporting, especially in the foreign media, of differences here over Afghan policy.

A: There was one story that was fed to THE NEW YORK TIMES which was totally false. I don't think one needs to look too far under the carpet to see where that popped up from. But Pakistan's position is well known and it is a united response. And that position is that we welcome the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the Afghans must themselves determine their own future. Both the President and the Prime Minister have welcomed the formation of the interim government. Short of recognition, we have given them every possible help. The course we have followed is wise and prudent—for us and for them. We will recognise them at a time when it doesn't jeopardise either their or our interests.

Q: Finally, on India, the process of normalisation is proving to be quite difficult, which is what we expected even though expectations on the other side of the border were quite high, and unrealistically so. Where do we really go from here?

A: I would not like to underrate the agreements we signed with India in December 1988—the first since June 1972. Therefore, it marked an important step in the process of normalisation of relations with India. I think these relations will continue to improve with the passage of time. No doubt there will be hiccups, but I feel they can De overcome. I think Pakistan and India need to develop relations and I'm glad this government did. I certainly wouldn't have liked to be in a situation with an operation Bluestar on our borders while we had 3 million Afghan refugees on our soil and an uncertain situation in Afghanistan. I think the immediate foreign policy benefits are already evident, but also in the interest of regional peace and security, the tension between India and Pakistan should be removed.

Yaqub Khan Replies to Foreign Policy Criticism

BK2405042489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said that, in view of the challenges facing the country, the government has been continuing the implementation of its foreign policy objectives and that it has been successful in maintaining a balance in it. Winding up the debate on foreign policy in the Senate last night, he was replying to criticisms and proposals of the members on various aspects of foreign policy.

On Afghanistan, he categorically said that there is no change in the policy on Afghanistan. On recognition to the interim government in Afghanistan, he said prematurely recognizing that government will not benefit the stand of the mujahidin. Pakistan welcomes the efforts of the interim government to strengthen and broaden its base in Afghanistan.

On the Jammu and Kashmir issue, he said the present government has taken up the issue with India. Referring to bilateral talks to solve the Siachen issue, the foreign minister said the next meeting of the defense secretaries is expected soon. Endorsing the concern of the members on India's weapons program, the foreign minister said India's experiment with the medium range ballistic missile Agni reflects its desire to attain military supremacy in this region and at a global level.

On India's dispute with Nepal, he said that, as a member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Pakistan has established contacts with both countries in order to solve the dispute soon.

On Pakistan-U.S. relations, he said both countries want peace and stability in this region.

As regards Pakistan's nuclear program, he assured that the country's national interest will not be compromised. He reiterated that the Kahuta [nuclear] plant has not been closed.

Indian Home Secretary Meets Bhutto 21 May

BK2305053889 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] The official-level talks between India and Pakistan continued for the 2d day today in Islamabad. At the plenary session today, the talks focused on curbing transborder illegal movement and drug trafficking. The talks are to continue.

Yesterday, Mr Kalyanakrishnan [Indian home secretary] called on the Pakistan prime minister, Mrs Benazir Bhutto, in Rawalpindi. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed. Mrs Bhutto expressed the hope that the series of high-level Indo-Pak talks planned for June and July will lead to further improvement in bilateral relations between India and Pakistan.

Mr Kalyanakrishnan also called on the interior minister of Pakistan, Mr Aitzaz Ahsan. He was accompanied by the 11-member Indian delegation he is leading to Pakistan. The meeting was also attended by Pakistan's interior secretary, Mr S. K. Mahmud, and the Indian ambassador to Pakistan, Mr J. N. Dixit. Mr Kalyanakrishan and Mr Mahmud briefed Pakistan's interior minister on the first session of the talks, which was held yesterday.

Mr Kalyanakrishnan met the Pakistan president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today. He conveyed a message of goodwill from the president, Mr Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to Mr Khan. The Pakistan president reciprocated the sentiments.

Meets Ishaq Khan 22 May

BK2205143989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Indian Home Secretary J.A. Kalyanakrishnan called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. The president emphasized that Indian-Pakistani relations should be based on the recognized principles of equality for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the two countries.

The Indian home secretary briefed the president on the progress of his current talks with Pakistan's interior secretary on promoting tourism and controlling drug trafficking and cross-border smuggling. He conveyed to the president messages of good wishes from the Indian president and prime minister. The president reciprocated similar sentiments.

Sri Lanka

Tamil Rebels Ambush Army Patrol, Kill 4 Indians

BK2305144089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1420 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Colombo, May 23 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas ambushed an Indian army patrol in eastern Sri Lanka Tuesday [23 May], killing four soldiers, as troops elsewhere continued a major search for members of warring militant factions, officials here said.

Suspected fighters of the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), exploded a landmine as soldiers passed through Thannamunai village, Indian officials here said.

The attack, which killed four soldiers and seriously wounded three, was believed to be a diversionary tactic and came as heavily armed Indian soldiers moved into a northern jungle region where rival militants clashed late Sunday.

"We have intercepted LTTE radio messages asking their cadres to step up attacks in (eastern) Batticaloa District," an Indian official source here said.

Local military officials said Indian soldiers in full battle dress mounted a cordon-and-search operation in Ullukulama village and surrounding jungles looking for guerrillas who escaped after a pitched battle late Sunday.

LTTE fighters stormed a camp of the rival People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) killing 42 PLOTE fighters and losing 11 of their own men, military officials said.

"The situation is now under control. The IPKF (Indian Peace Keeping Force) has moved into the area and we have had no reports of fresh clashes," a military spokesman here said.

Immediately after the clashes, fleeing LTTE men shot and wounded two Indian soldiers in the vicinity, officials said. They said an Indian helicopter gunship rushed to the rescue of the two soldiers and killed four Tigers.

LTTE sources here said the group's action against the PLOTE was in part prompted by the group's use of Tiger letter heads to extort money from businessmen in Colombo.

"They (PLOTE) have used the Tiger name to collect money from people here and they have also killed a lot of civilians and blamed the murders on Tigers," an LTTE source here said.

There had been no reaction to the attack from PLOTE which was involved in the failed November 3 coup attempt in the Indian Ocean atoll nation of the Maldives.

The latest violence overshadowed peace talks between top LTTE leaders and a ministerial delegation in Colombo.

A joint statement by the LTTE and President Ranasinghe Premadasa's office said talks Tuesday centered on colonization, particularly in the multi-ethnic Eastern Province.

"They (the LTTE) were of the view that colonization has changed the social pattern and ethnic composition in some of the (minority) Tamil speaking areas," the statement said.

Even as the talks are continuing, Tiger militants are waging a bloody bush war against Indian troops deployed in the island's Tamil populated north and east in line with a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

The group has been accused of killing hundreds of rival militants in the past six years in a bid to lead the Tamil homeland campaign for a separate state called Eelam in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Officials here said they had last week renewed a warning to PLOTE men about possible attacks from the LTTE because of their strong anti-LTTE stance since the peace talks began on April 26.

Other militant groups, including the PLOTE, which have now become political organisations, have expressed fears that they will be left out of any deal Colombo may strike with the LTTE in a bid to end the dragging ethnic conflict.

Delhi Confirms LTTE Ambush

BK2405091489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] One Indian Peacekeeping Force jawan [soldier] was killed and two civilians were injured when militants ambushed a convoy in eastern Sri Lanka yesterday. According to Indian officials, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam men exploded a land mine and opened fire on the convoy as it was proceeding from Bandaramulla to Batticaloa town, and two civilians were also wounded and they were laborers who were traveling with the convoy. [sentence as heard]

Militants Accuse Colombo of Rearming Rival Rebels

BK2405083889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0805 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Colombo, May 25 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Tamil militant group Wednesday [24 May] accused the government of arming rival guerrillas to launch a fierce attack against them and said it was part of a "British and American imperialist" plot.

The People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) said the Sri Lankan Army supplied weapons and gave cover to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to attack a PLOTE camp in northern Vavuniya District Sunday.

"Both sides suffered heavily and many villagers too were among those killed. The government has had a temporary victory in using the racialist Tigers against the growing revolutionary force in the island," the statement said.

Sunday's internecine clash which left 42 PLOTE men and 11 LTTE fighters dead by official count came as Tiger leaders continued a peace dialogue with Colombo in a bid to hammer out a solution to the country's dragging ethnic conflict.

"The present negotiation (in Colombo) is nothing but a continuation of the discussions that were held in London between the LTTE and representatives of the ruling circle of British and American imperialism.

"If the democratic forces in Sri Lanka are not awakened to the inner motives of American and British imperialism, then the destabilisation of this country will be inevitable," the PLOTE said.

It said Colombo had been nervously watching the "growing unity and broad understanding" among the majority Sinhalese community and minority Tamil and Moslem groups.

"The unity that could emerge among the progressive militant youths among these communities is sure to cause trouble to the pro-imperialist nature of the government," the PLOTE charged.

D. Sitharthan, political wing leader of the PLOTE, said his group was in contact with the main Sinhalese rebel group, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), which is violently anti-government.

"We have had talks with the JVP at a political level. They have not advanced to a direct leadership level discussion, not as yet...," Mr. Sitharthan said.

His remark was the first admission of the group's links with the JVP which is a posing a serious challenge to President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government and has taken a militantly anti-Indian position.

The JVP, LTTE and the PLOTE are opposed, for different reasons, to the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord under which New Delhi deployed its troops in the island's Tamil-populated north and east.

In a surprise move, the LTTE responded to a peace offer by Mr. Premadasa and began talks on April 26. The JVP has totally rejected a similar appeal by the president.

Rival Tamil militant groups have expressed fears that they will be left out of any deal Colombo may strike with Tiger militants who earlier were bitter enemies of the Sri Lankan forces.

The group is now waging a bush war against Indian troops after repudiating the peace plan and refusing to surrender its arms.

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